

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY SEMINAR
Fall 2016**

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“Rethinking Avian Bill Evolution”

Avian bills are iconic structures for the study of ecology and evolution, with hypotheses about the morphological structure of bills dating back to Darwin. Several ecological and physiological hypotheses have been developed to explain the evolution of the morphology of bill shape. In this talk I'll discuss the traditional ecological perspectives of the evolution of bills as well as present data about new perspectives related to avian physiology and climate that impact the shape of avian bills. More specifically I will discuss the roles of habitat, ambient temperature, body size, thermoregulation, intra-specific competition, and ecological release on the evolution of bill morphology.

TUESDAY September 13, 2016

3:00-4:15 PM

Innovation Hall Room 131