

Session 6: Speciation

Keynote

Date: Wednesday 1 November, 2017
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Room: Seminar Room

Speciation in hole-nesting birds: any general lessons so far?

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There is a general agreement that the evolution of new species that can co-exist requires both ecological divergence and the development of reproductive isolation. Key questions in speciation research are therefore under which geographical conditions ecological divergence occurs (i.e. during allopatry or at secondary contact) and whether and how ecological divergence is associated with the development of reproductive isolation. The typical strong competition for limiting nest sites among hole nesting birds means that we may expect competition-driven ecological character displacement at secondary contact. In a young *Ficedula* hybrid zone on Öland, Sweden we find that pied flycatchers rapidly are displaced from their preferred breeding habitat by collared flycatchers and that this process is linked with the build-up of both habitat and temporal isolation. I will show some examples of how we use genomic methods to reveal the underlying genetic changes and discuss how these findings may contribute to our general understanding of speciation in hole-breeding birds.