

〈シンポジウム I〉

鳥の美しさの意味と役割

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The Significance and Role of Beauty in Birds

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Abstract

Birds are beautiful in plumage and appearance, and this is displayed in conspicuous ways. Beauty is associated with the diurnal habits of birds, in which visual signals are important for communication. Many birds also have beautiful songs for vocal communication. This is correlated to the fact that they inhabit forests and grasslands, where visual signals are not so effective because of distance, dense twigs and leaves. In sexually dimorphic species, the conspicuous sex is usually the male. Males use their beautiful plumage and songs to attract females, as well as to expel rival males. Beautiful plumage and songs have been selected for through intra- and inter-sexual selection. Females evolved inconspicuous plumage in order to reduce the chance of predation associated with nest attendance.

Key words: birds, plumage, song, sexual selection