



Macroecological responses of birds to urbanization

THE CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM SOLUTIONS PRESENTS:

Corey Callaghan, UNSW

Date: Thursday 6th September

Time: 16:00 - 17:00

Venue: Building 20 Theatre 3 (20.3)

Refreshments will be provided

ABSTRACT

Dedicated birders like two things: birds and lists. Fully recognizing this simple fact of life, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology designed and launched eBird, which is simultaneously a tool for birders and a tool for science. Since its inception in 2002, eBird has collected >500 million bird observations worldwide. This data, along with most citizen science data, are inherently biased to some extent - data collection is generally skewed towards dense human populations. Corey's research has currently been capitalizing on this 'bias' in order to address urban ecological questions, both at small local scales and broad global scales. In this talk, he will address the validity of eBird data and demonstrate its power in answering ecological questions and impacts. Specifically, he will discuss (1) the applicability of eBird data to monitor biodiversity change in urban ecosystems, (2) which local and landscape attributes of urban greenspaces predict species richness, (3) bird responses to urbanization gradients, and (4) species-specific biological and ecological traits which predict a bird's presence in urban ecosystems.

BIOGRAPHY

Corey is an American living and studying in Australia. He is a PhD candidate at UNSW Sydney, based in the Centre for Ecosystem Science. He received a BSc in Environmental Science and a BSc in Mathematics & Statistics from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. After which, he completed a MSc in Environmental Science at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. His research has been largely avian-focused, and his free-time also involves inordinate amounts of time birding. His research aims to best understand how to maintain high levels of avian diversity within cities. His favourite Australian bird is the Crested Pigeon!



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