

THE ARTISTIC LIFE OF BIRDS

An overlooked aspect of birds is the significance of beauty in their lives. Scientific work indicates that aesthetic values in birds may determine the evolution of their species. Birds' vivid colors and lilting songs are not mere chance developments. In this course, we will explore the amazing artistic choices that influence birds during mate selection, nest building, chick raising, and communication. Long before humans appeared, birds were making art. Bower birds made sculptures, Birds of Paradise pirouetted in feather tutus, and songbirds made music. Is there a kind of beauty that all species—even humans—appreciate equally? Decide for yourself while observing the many forms of art that birds create.

Leader: Wendy Worth is an art historian and has an MA in conservation biology.

Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 6 weeks: February 28 through April 5

Location: Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville