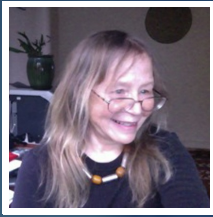


# Fruit Flies to Bluebirds: Exposing the Fitness Consequences of Sexual Behavior



Patricia Adair Gowaty

Distinguished Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Challenging key assumptions of predominating theories

Science and creativity: at first glance, the two may not be synonymous. However, successful science is accomplished through questioning what others hold to be true which takes true creativity. Dr. Patty Gowaty, Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, at the University of California, Los Angeles, studies the causes and consequences of sexual behavior, often by taking novel approaches to interesting questions that have never been asked in quite the same way. To understand selection, she asks how variation among individuals in mating behavior affects the Darwinian parameters of their survival and reproductive success in real time. Her methods include field study of social behavior of birds, experimental lab studies of multiple species of fruit flies, and theory; each approach shedding light upon the origins of the health of offspring and the lifespan of breeding adults. Additionally, under the assumptions that individuals in all species experience social and ecological constraints and that all species - including humans - are subject to the force of selection, her research has the potential to inform debates about the origins of human social behavior.

Distinguished by her critical testing of key assumptions of predominating theories of the evolution of social behavior, Dr. Gowaty's discoveries have often resulted in conclusions at odds with prevailing wisdom. Thus, her research helps produce a more realistic view of the veracity and appropriateness of theories for origins of and differences between the social/sexual behavior of the sexes. Dr. Gowaty believes that "science at its core is collaboration," and thus she brings together collaborators to study diverse species to provide a more...

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## AFFILIATION



University of California, Los Angeles

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Zoology, 1980, Clemson University
- B.A., in Biology, 1967, Newcomb College, Tulane University

## AWARDS

- Scientific paper (Gowaty et al. 2012 PNAS) listed as #42 in Discover Magazine's top 100 discoveries of 2012
- Fellow, Society of Biology, UK (2010)
- Senior Fellow, International Ornithological Congress Committee of Representatives (2009)
- Distinguished Professor, UCLA (2007)
- Elected contributor of scientific autobiography for Leaders in Animal Behavior: The Second Generation
- and 10 more...

## RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Patty Gowaty, of the University of California, Los Angeles, as she studies the evolution of mating behavior. Donations will fund the necessary \$250K required to complete the 30 year pedigree of eastern bluebirds. An additional \$10K will allow Dr. Gowaty to sequence the genome of the bluebirds. The ongoing studies on *Drosophila* species will require about \$255K over the next three years and will help to fund future scientists as well as lab experiments. Additionally, \$100K will help to move the DYNAMATE program onto a JAVA platform. Join in understanding the basic and applied research that helps explain mating behavior as it evolves.