Dr Jeremy Robertson

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Research Interests

Behavioural ecology of birds

- mating behaviour and Siblicide in Australian Pelicans
- mate choice in Crested Pigeons
- bioacoustic characteristics of birds and their role in speciation scenarios

Ecotourism Research

- environmental impact of ecotourism
- scientific understanding and interpretation of wildlife and the environment.

Qualifications

PhD

- experience in running a wildlife ecotourism business in Scotland

Jeremy is part of the BirdLab. His specialty areas of research are in:

Mating Behaviour and Siblicide in Australian Pelicans

Although pelicans, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*, are among the largest and most obvious of the Australian birds, little is known about their breeding behaviour. His main research concerns the constraints on clutch size and the number of fledglings, and the role of siblicide in brood reduction.

Mate Choice in Crested Pigeons

As in the pelican the social and breeding biology of the endemic crested pigeon, *Ocyphaps lophotes*, is poorly known and there has been little systematic research. Their mating system is intriguing because the spectacular crest and brightly coloured wing-bars would usually be considered typical male sexual signals and yet they are found on both females and males. The main aim of this research is to understand the role of these signals in mate choice.

Ecotourism Research

Ecotourism is a new sector of the tourist industry that emphasises interpretation of the natural world and consequently has a strong dependence on a scientific understanding of wildlife and the environment.

The impact of ecotourism has a direct bearing on its sustainability because degraded environments or wildlife leads to the collapse of the industry. To be successful ecotourism must have a low environmental impact and there are many opportunities for research on the impact of existing practices and on the means of further reducing the impact.