



Silvia Colombo

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Google Scholar
ResearchGate



EDUCATION

University of Melbourne

Melbourne, Australia

Ph.D.

July 2021 - present

Dissertation: *Evolutionary drivers and thermal consequences of nest architecture in birds*

Academic advisors: *Dr. Iliana Medina Guzmán (main supervisor), Professor Naomi Langmore, Dr. Claire Taylor*

University of Pisa

Pisa, Italy

Masters degree in Conservation and Evolution

Oct 2017 - Apr 2020

110/110 cum laude (GPA: 4/4)

Dissertation: *Memory retention in hippocampal ablated pigeons engaged in a homing task*

Academic advisors: *Professor Anna Gagliardo*

University of Pisa

Pisa, Italy

Bachelor degree in Biology

Oct 2013 - Dec 2017

104/110 (GPA: 3.78/4)

Dissertation: *Environmental enrichment, cortical plasticity, and vision recovery in adult amblyopic rats*

Academic advisors: *Dr. Alessandro Sale*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Uppsala University

Uppsala, Sweden

Internship

Jan 2021 to Jun 2021

Comparison of acoustic analyses of bird songs with studies of morphology and DNA with the final goal of re-evaluating the taxonomic status of different bird species

Academic advisor: Professor Per Alström

Field assistant on the island of Öland, Sweden. Involvement in a research project on the role of pre- and post-mating sexual selection in speciation processes in collared and pied flycatchers

Academic advisors: Professor Anna Qvarnström and Dr. Murielle Ålund

University of Vienna

Vienna, Austria

Internship

Jul 2020 to Dec 2020

Involvement in a research project on female response to male courtship displays in ring doves (*Streptopelia risoria*)

Academic advisors: Professor Leonida Fusani and Dr. Cliodhna Quigley

Involvement in a research project on the role of social experience in the development of complex sexual signalling in spotted bowerbirds (*Chlamydera maculata*)

Academic advisors: Professor Leonida Fusani and Dr. Giovanni Spezie

PUBLICATIONS

Published

Colombo S., Newman K.D., Langmore N.E., Taylor C.J., Medina I. (2024)

The role of climatic variables on nest architecture in Tanagers. *Ecology and Evolution*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11168>

Gagliardo A., Cioccarelli S., Giunchi D., Pollonara E., **Colombo S.**, Casini G., Bingman V.P. (2022).

Deconstructing the flight paths of hippocampal-lesioned homing pigeons as they navigate near home offers insight into spatial perception and memory without a hippocampus. *Behavioural Brain Research*. Volume 436. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2022.114073>

Mitoyen C., Quigley C., Canoine V., **Colombo S.**, Wöfl S., Fusani L. (2022)

Alteration of the temporal association between courtship audio and visual components affects female sexual response. *Integrative Zoology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1749-4877.12670>

Finch B.W., Hatfield R.S., **Colombo S.**, Kennedy A.S., te Raa M., Irestedt M., de Swardt H.D., Grosel J., Engelbrecht D., Cohen C., Olsson U., Donald P., Njoroge P., Frahnert S., de Knijff P., Alström P. (2022).

Disjunct resident and breeding population of southern African endemic Melodious Lark *Mirafra cheniana* discovered in East Africa. *Journal of Ornithology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10336-022-02013-z>

Gagliardo A., **Colombo S.**, Pollonara E., Casini G., Rossino M.G., Wikelski M., Bingman V.P. (2021).

GPS-profiling of retrograde navigational impairments associated with hippocampal lesion in homing pigeons. *Behavioural Brain Research*. Volume 412. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2021.113408>

CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS

Colombo S., Taylor C.J., Newman K., Russell D., Ekhoﬀ P., Langmore N.E., Medina Guzmán I.

The role of climatic variables on nest architecture in Tanagers. Australasian Society for the Study of Animal Behaviour, June 26–29, 2023, Sydney, Australia

Colombo S.

Evolutionary drivers of nest architecture in birds. Australasian Evolution Society Conference, December 14–16, 2022, Canberra, Australia

Mitoyen C., Quigley C., Canoine V., **Colombo S.**, Wöfl S., Fusani L.

Audio-visual synchronization of multimodal courtship signals affects female sexual response in the ring dove. ASAB Winter Meeting, December 3-4, 2020, Virtual conference

Biegler D., **Colombo S.**, Cepon D., Tuozzi A., Canoine V., Fusani L., Quigley C.

Using playback to investigate multimodal signalling of attractiveness in ring doves (*Streptopelia risoria*). COGSCI 2021 Comparative Cognition - Animal Minds, July 26-29, 2021, Vienna, Austria

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Joyce Vickery Scientific Research Fund (1000 AUD)	2022
Canberra Birds Conservation Fund (5000 AUD)	2022
Australian Bird Study Association Fund for Avian Research (1000 AUD)	2022
Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment Round 2 (4985 AUD)	2021
Melbourne Research Scholarship, University of Melbourne	2021-2024
Erasmus+ Scholarship, University of Pisa (1272 AUD)	2021
“Andrea Marconato” Award, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (2880 AUD). Fellowship not accepted because of the start of the Melbourne Research Scholarship	2021

TEACHING

University of Melbourne, <i>Demonstrator</i> , ZOOL30007: Animal Behaviour	Semester 1, 2024
University of Melbourne, <i>Demonstrator</i> , ZOOL20005: Animal Structure and Function	Semester 1, 2024
University of Melbourne, <i>Demonstrator</i> , ZOOL20004: Australian Wildlife Biology	Semester 1, 2024
University of Melbourne, <i>Organizer</i> , Evolution and Behaviour meetings	Semester 1, 2023
University of Melbourne, <i>Demonstrator</i> , ZOOL20004: Australian Wildlife Biology	Semester 1, 2023
University of Melbourne, <i>Demonstrator</i> , BIOL30002: Experimental Animal Physiology	Semester 2, 2023

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution to the [Herbarium Horti Botanici Pisani](#) (University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy) of 29 specimens

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE, ACTIVITIES AND SOCIETIES (in the past five years)

Biology tutor for a Year 12 Australian student - Student Welfare Outreach Team (SWOT), University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia	August 2023 - present
Online teaching to young immigrants (Italian, mathematics, biology) - Italian Red Cross, Cagliari (CA), Italy	April 2020 – June 2020
Bellow-based survey of Red deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>) - Parco Nazionale Foreste Casentinesi, Pratovecchio (AR), Italy	September 2018

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue: Italian

Other languages: English (TOEFL iBT® Test, Score 100/120)

Digital skills: confidence with Excel, Word, PowerPoint, GIS, Loopy, RavenPro, R

Job-related skills: bird handling, colour banding and avian blood sampling capacity; knowledge and use of GPS data systems; outdoor education and group management

Driving license: Italian “B” License

Diving license: PADI Open Water Diver License

Bird ringing license issued by Naturhistoriska riksmuseet Ringmärkningscentralen, Stockholm, Sweden

COLLABORATORS

Kevin Newman, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Professor Per Alström, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Brendan Lepschi, Australian National Herbarium, Canberra, Australia

Professor Anna Gagliardo, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Dr. Cliodhna Quigley, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Dr. Catherine Sheard, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Professor Susan Healy, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, United Kingdom

