

Crown 85 Report

What Birds See

Animal vision and tetrachromatic vision are wide ranging topics, ones certainly suitable for Crown85 capstone projects . This report will be a short summary of several aspects of bird vision with material extracted from a Scientific American article: "What Birds See. Scientific American, vol 295, pp 68-75 (2006).

The report will briefly include:

1. The spectra pigments found in birds and their evolutionary ancestors compared to mammals (Figure: The Avian Advantage).
2. How birds obtain 'extra' visual pigments via oil drop filters (Figure: The Importance of Cone Oil Droplets)
3. What would having four visual pigments mean behaviorally and how would one test this in birds? [paragraph on "Testing Color Vision in Birds"]

[The above Scientific American article is available on line through the UCSC Science Library On-Line Journals License.](#)

STUDENT SHOULD MAKE APPOINTMENT WITH PROF. SWITKES TO DISCUSS REPORT