



UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden
Ray Collett Lecture Series *presents*

Sparrows in the Mist: Complex Winter Social Behavior in a Little Brown Bird with Bruce Lyon

Webinar presentation: Monday, July 19, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Free registration: arboretum.ucsc.edu/education/ray-collett



For the past 18 years, Bruce Lyon and his students have been studying a population of Golden-crowned Sparrows that winter in the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum. Sparrows return winter after winter to the Arboretum and flock together with the same individuals as in previous years. The researchers use innovative social network methods to understand patterns of social organization and discovered remarkable social complexity in these birds, similar in some ways to the societies of mammals, including primates. Their studies reveal that the winter lives of these modest little brown birds are surprisingly more complex than previously thought.



Bruce Lyon is a professor in the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UC Santa Cruz. He teaches ecology, ornithology, and a behavioral ecology field course. His research focuses on social behavior and social signals in birds. He has studied female reproductive strategies in birds, including brood parasitism in Wood Ducks near Davis, CA, and American Coots in British Columbia. Other projects include studies of Lark Buntings in Colorado and Black-headed Ducks in Argentina. Bruce is also a passionate nature photographer.