

SCOTT LANYON BIOGRAPHY

Scott Lanyon joined the University of Minnesota in 1995 as Director of the Bell Museum of Natural History (Minnesota's State Museum of Natural History) and as a professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. While serving as director, Scott worked to strengthen the biological collections of the University of Minnesota, hired eight energetic new faculty members to both curate the collections and strengthen the museum's research program, extended the museum's connections throughout the university and the community, led the museum through both strategic planning and planning for a new building, and strengthened the private support for the museum. In 2008 both the Minnesota House and Senate voted to appropriate \$24M in bonding for the new museum facility which was to be the gateway to the St. Paul campus, but the support was vetoed by the Governor. After thirteen years leading the museum, Scott chose to step down as museum director to become Head of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. In his four years in this position he has conducted strategic planning, hired four new faculty members, worked to protect graduate student support, revised the review process for tenure-track faculty, and initiated a review of the EEB Graduate Program.

Despite heavy involvement in administration throughout his career, Scott has stayed active in education and research. He has taught university courses in Evolution, Ornithology, Birds of the World, NSF Proposal Writing, Professional Issues for Graduate Students, and Systematic Biology. He has also taught K-12 teacher development workshops in Evolution and Ornithology. As a field biologist he has conducted research in Bolivia, Brazil, Jamaica, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. The focus of his research program has been an analysis of the phylogenetic relationships in the New World Blackbirds (e.g., blackbirds, meadowlarks, grackles, orioles) in order to better understand patterns of behavioral and morphological evolution. He and his co-authors are just wrapping up their NSF Tree-of-Life funded investigation of the New World Nine-primaried Oscines of which the blackbirds represents one major lineage. For a change of pace, he currently serves as Chair of the Board for Minnesota Audubon and as Chair of the Steering Committee for the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas project.

Scott has a B.S. from the State University of New York College at Geneseo (1977), an M.S. from Indiana University (1980), and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University (1985). Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Minnesota, Scott was on the scientific staff of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago (1985-1995) where he was, at various times, Curator of Birds, Head of the Division of Birds, Chair of the Department of Zoology, Head of the Biochemical Laboratories, and Pritzker Curator of Systematic Biology. While at the Field Museum, he also served as co-Chair of the Committee on Evolutionary Biology at the University of Chicago. He has been a board member for the Association of Systematic Collections, Natural Science Collections Alliance, Society of Systematic Biologists, and Wilson Ornithological Society, and has just started his appointment as President-Elect of the American Ornithologists' Union. He will become President of the AOU in 2014 – 38 years after his father served in that same role.