

MIT Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History

The Traditions and Networks of Birding in Africa



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In Africa over the past several centuries, a network of collaboration has grown up between different sorts of birders. What has structured their interactions? Colonialism and race, certainly, but also the differences between vernacular and ornithological traditions of knowledge. Cases drawn from the nineteenth-century Cape Colony through Zambia in the 1990s suggest that the nature of facts and conceptions of expertise shaped the way birders interacted. Yes, ornithologists in colonial Africa excluded African experts from the position of authorship, but for vernacular birders, honor did not lay in authorship of hard facts.

Friday, March 15, 2013

2:30 to 4:30 pm

Building E51 Room 095

Corner of Wadsworth and Amherst Streets, Cambridge

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