

# SCISOC SPOTLIGHT

BY THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

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## RESEARCH FOCUS:

EVOLUTIONARY  
ORIGINS OF BIRDS

I am interested in the **earliest evidence of 'modern' birds** in the fossil record, and how these fossils can help us understand **how, where, and when modern birds originated**, as well as what these fossils can tell us about how the biosphere persisted **through the end-Cretaceous mass extinction**

## WHY RESEARCH?

I have been **fascinated with wildlife** since I was a young child, and gradually became curious about the **evolutionary origins** of present-day biodiversity. Birds and dinosaurs have always been a passion of mine, and the **opportunity to link those interests** by studying evolutionary biology and palaeontology made a career in research inevitable



" ... **learning to think creatively in order to identify and pursue key outstanding scientific questions is the most important thing an aspiring researcher can do.**"

## ONE PIECE OF ADVICE...

I think that **learning to think creatively** in order to identify and pursue **key outstanding scientific questions** is the most important thing an aspiring researcher can do. What are the **fundamental but untested assumptions** underpinning your area of research? Are there **different ways** that those assumptions can be tested? And if those assumptions fail to be substantiated, what are the **implications for the field?**