Seasonal timing in a changing climate

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Propositions

1. Increasing temperature, rather than mean temperature, fine-tunes the onset of egg laying in great tits (*Parus major*).

2. Avian life-history decisions are influenced by the rate of change in environmental factors over time because these are more easily perceived than their average or cumulative values.

3. Experimental assessments of avian timing of reproduction are biased towards male physiology, which hampers the understanding of mechanisms underlying the female's plasticity in the onset of laying.

4. By affecting patterns of spring warming, anthropogenic climate change disrupts the temporal coordination of species interactions, which is likely to destabilise natural communities.

5. A theory can be verified by a mass of facts, but it becomes a proven theory, not a fact (Dobzhansky, 1973).

6. It is emotionally more rewarding to marvel at the complexity of evolved mechanisms in living systems than to try to infer underlying general rules.

7. Religion is based on on faith, while science is based on doubt. In a modern society, only one of them should be institutionalized.

Propositions belonging to the thesis entitled:

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by

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