

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Scott Edwards

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Edwards, Scott
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 17, 2018 and October 12, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012 and 2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:27:49).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Biologist Scott Edwards (1963 - ) is a well known lead researcher in the field of Ornithology at Harvard. Edwards was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 17, 2018 and October 12, 2012, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_171
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Biologist Scott Edwards was born on July 7, 1963 in Honolulu, Hawaii, but he grew up in Riverdale in the Bronx, New York City. From an early age, Edwards was interested in natural history. Before graduating from Harvard University in 1986 with his B.A. degree in biology, he worked at the environmental institute Wave Hill. While earning his undergraduate degree, Edwards took a year off to volunteer at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History where he was first exposed to the world of museum research on birds. Upon graduation, Edwards was accepted into the University of California, Berkeley where he worked with bird evolution and graduated with his Ph.D. degree in zoology in 1992. His dissertation focused on songbirds from Australia and New Guinea – using DNA to track their movements and population differences.

Edwards then moved to the University of Florida where he completed an Alfred P. Sloan postdoctoral fellowship in molecular evolution studying avian genetics. In 1994, Edwards joined the faculty at the University of Washington in Seattle where he became an Assistant Professor of Zoology and Curator of Genetic Resources at the University's Burke Museum. He left in 2003 to assume a professorial position at Harvard University in organismic and evolutionary biology as well as Curator of Ornithology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Edwards' work has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration. He has also served on panels for both of the organizations as well as on the advisory board of the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in North Carolina. Edwards served on the editorial boards for the journals *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, *Evolution*, *Systematic Biology* and *Conservation Genetics*. He has published over 100 papers since the beginning of his undergraduate career. In 2010, Edwards was invited to co-host the six-part SyFy series *Beast Legends*, reconstructing what mythological creatures may have looked like based on first-person accounts, archaeological evidence, and scientific data.

Edwards was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on ...

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Scott Edwards was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 17, 2018 and October 12, 2012, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Biologist Scott Edwards (1963 - ) is a well known lead researcher in the field of Ornithology at Harvard.

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# Restrictions

## Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

## Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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# Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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# Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## Persons:

Edwards, Scott

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Edwards, Scott--Interviews

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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## The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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### Occupations:

Biologist

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### HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, November 17, 2018 and October 12, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:17 ?

Scott Edwards describes his family background. Edwards was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1963 and moved to Manhattan, New York shortly afterwards. His mother, Delores Kerrick, was born in Annapolis, Maryland in the 1930s. Even as a mother of three, she attended law school in New York and worked at a law firm in Manhattan until prematurely passing away from leukemia in 1976. Edwards' father, Adrian Edwards, was born in New York in 1933 and grew up

in Brooklyn, New York. He trained at Brooklyn Medical School, and then served as an Army doctor for several years in Hawaii, Korea, Vietnam and Colorado before moving back to Manhattan to work at New York Hospital. Edwards is one of three siblings, and he fondly recalls his childhood with his parents.

Affirmative action programs.  
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Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:51 ?

Scott Edwards describes his childhood in New York City, and his early experiments in science. Edwards and his family initially lived in Manhattan, and later moved to the rural parts of the Bronx. Edwards received an excellent private school education at the Buckley School in Manhattan, where he also played sports such as basketball and soccer. When not at school, Edwards enjoyed exploring the outdoors. He also spent a lot of time at his father's medical practice. His early experiences in science stemmed from school biology assignments. Edwards also developed an interest in bird-watching at a young age and spent his early childhood years learning about birds, and studying and recording bird sightings.

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Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:05 ?

Scott Edwards describes his formative years in high school and college, where he pursued his interest in science, particularly, ornithology. Edwards attended high school at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. After high school, Edwards worked for a few months at a local environmental center in Riverdale, New York where he authored a manuscript on the history of ornithology in Riverdale. In the fall of 1981, Edwards began his undergraduate studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he majored in the history of science. Following his sophomore year at Harvard, Edwards took a year off, and volunteered with the ornithology division at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural Sciences in Washington, D.C. When Edwards returned to Harvard to begin his junior year, he changed his major to biology.

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Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:29 ?

Scott Edwards describes his research in college and in graduate school. He took a year off from his undergraduate studies at Harvard University, to pursue research in ornithology. Edwards spent six months at the Smithsonian Institute where he cataloged specimen and researched the archival collections. Edwards spent the remainder of his year in Hawaii on the Big Island and the French

Frigate Shoals, researching indigenous bird species. He then went on to graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley in 1986, and spent his first year in New Guinea, studying birds of paradise. His dissertation was a population genetics study on a group of song-birds in Australia, called babblers. Edwards' research involved using genetic markers to trace individuals and populations across a geographic landscape.

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Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:09 ?

Scott Edwards provides an overview of evolutionary biology and discusses the biological extent of similarities and differences amongst humans. After obtaining his doctoral degree in 1992 at the University of California, Berkeley, Edwards began a post-doctoral fellowship at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation at the University of Florida, studying human major histocompatibility genes. In 1994, Edwards joined the faculty of the zoology department at the University of Washington, and also became the curator of genetic resources at the university's Burke Museum. His experience with the museum's collections paved the way to his next position as Professor in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, and curator of ornithology at the university's Museum of Comparative Zoology. Edwards has been on the faculty at Harvard since 2003.

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Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_002\_006, TRT: 6:28:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_002\_007, TRT: 7:29:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_002\_008, TRT: 8:29:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Scott Edwards, Section A2012\_171\_002\_009, TRT: 9:31:56 ?