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FLAP - Fostering Learning and Adaptation through Predictability

The FLAP project explores the complex relationship between birds' cognitive abilities, their early life experiences, and environmental predictability (or unpredictability), that is how consistent cues are within an environment and how reliably they signal what will happen next. In doing so, FLAP focuses on the domestic chicken, a precocial species, and the hornbill, and altricial bird endemic to Asia with a distinctive and extensive parental care. By bringing together species with contrasting life histories, FLAP offers a rare opportunity for the comparative study of how developmental strategies influence responses to predictable and unpredictable environments from the earliest moments of life. FLAP also bridges fundamental research and applied perspectives, with important implications for animal welfare and conservation. Although the birds studied in this project occupy opposite ends of the conservation spectrum, they all face challenges in human-altered environments. Insights from FLAP can inform strategies to enhance welfare of human-exploited animals, and guide reintroduction practices for species at risk

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