

Peter and Rosemary Grant

Evolutionary Biologists

British couple who are evolutionary biologists at Princeton University. Each currently holds the position of Emeritus Professor. They are known for their work concerning Darwin's finches on the Galápagos Island named Daphne Major. The Grants have spent six months of every year since 1973 capturing, tagging, and taking blood samples of the finches on the island. It has been their life's work to show that natural selection can be seen within a single lifetime, or even within a couple of years. Darwin originally thought that natural selection was a long, drawn out process. The Grants have shown that these changes in populations can happen very quickly.

Peter and Rosemary Grant are distinguished for their remarkable long-term studies demonstrating evolution in action in Galápagos finches. They have demonstrated how very rapid changes in body and beak size in response to changes in the food supply are driven by natural selection. They have also elucidated the mechanisms by which new species arise and how genetic diversity is maintained in natural populations. The work of the Grants has had a seminal influence in the fields of population biology, evolution, and ecology.

Learn more https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter and Rosemary Grant

Visit DGN Science Wall of Fame http://www.csd99.org/dgn/academics/DGN-Science-Wall-of-Fame1.cfm