

A Joint Seminar

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS

Department of Philosophy
and Religion Studies

Environmental Science
and
INSTITUTE of APPLIED
SCIENCES
Department of Biological Sciences



present

a lecture by

Alan Carter

Biodiversity and All that Jazz

Carter considers several of the most famous arguments for our being under a moral obligation to preserve species, and finds them all wanting. The most promising argument for preserving all varieties of species might seem to be an aesthetic one. Unfortunately, the suggestion that the moral basis for the preservation of species should be construed as similar to the moral basis for the preservation of a work of art seems to presume (what are now widely regarded as) erroneous conceptualizations of “species.” The more promising approaches to how “species” ought to be conceptualized suggest that the preservation of species should be construed as of far greater aesthetic importance than is suggested by focusing upon the preservation of any single work of art. Hence, if we have a moral obligation to preserve a single artwork, then we have a far greater moral obligation to preserve species than has often been presumed.

Friday, April 30 at 3:00 p.m. in EESAT 130

The lecture is free and open to the public.

For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266 or philosophy@unt.edu.

Alan Carter is Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He was formerly Chair of the Philosophy Department at Heythrop College, University of London. His most recent book is entitled *A Radical Green Political Theory*.