

Research position in bird ecology available

The Institute of Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Brno, Czech Republic) is seeking a highly motivated person (ideally with a PhD degree) to strengthen a research team working on **carry-over effects and migratory connectivity in birds**. The position is available from 1 February 2015 to 31 December 2016.

The position is part of the project 'Linking events through the annual cycle: the importance of carry-over effects for the ecology of migratory birds', funded by the Czech Science Foundation. The key objective of this project is to explore how environmental conditions encountered throughout the year affect subsequent stages of the annual cycle in long-distance avian migrants. We use *Acrocephalus* warblers and *Ficedula* flycatchers as model species. The project is employing a combination of various approaches, from analyses of ring recoveries, remote-sensed data and stable isotope ratios, through tracking bird movements by geolocators, to detailed monitoring of breeding performance and inter-annual survival. The field work in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria will comprise monitoring of nest survival, mist-netting, deploying and retrieving geolocators. The major part of the positions will, however, lie in data analysis and work on scientific papers.

Requirements

Successful candidates should be enthusiastic persons interested in avian ecology and animal migration. Candidates should have:

- A PhD (or MSc) degree in Biology, with a specialization in Animal Ecology, Zoology or similar.
- Experience with data analysis (ideally R, MARK, GIS, WinBUGS).
- Proficient knowledge of English indicated by the ability to write scientific papers.
- Experience with field work on birds will be an advantage.



Within the topic of 'carry-over effects and migratory connectivity in birds', we offer the candidate time and space to develop her/his own ideas. After an initial selection, we may ask the candidates to come up with a brief research plan on their preferred research line as a starting point to develop their career in bird ecology.

Conditions of employment

The Institute of Vertebrate Biology offers a salary of 18 500 CZK gross per month, based on a full-time position. Foreign applicants moving to Brno may apply for additional funding from the South Moravian Centre for International Mobility: <http://www.jcmm.cz/en/about-jcmm.html>. The successful candidate will be offered a temporary position for one year with the option of renewal for the other year. Extension of the contract depends on the applicants' commitment to work fully on the project and her/his sufficient progress within the first year. A good-quality candidate with recently defended PhD may apply for a higher salary (approx. 42 000 CZK gross per month) through the Programme of support of perspective human resources funded by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. This option might extend the contract by additional one or two years. Further extension will depend on funding conditions.

Applications, including a letter of motivation detailing research interests and experience, a CV, a list of publications, a summary of the PhD and/or MSc thesis, and letters of recommendation from two academic referees, should be sent to Petr Procházka (e-mail: prochazka@ivb.cz) by January 15, 2015.