

**MPI for Ornithology, Dep. Behavioural Ecology & Evolutionary Genetics**

**PhD - Sexual selection in Parrots**

**Application deadline: 05.01.2015**

**-PhD position "Comparative analysis of sexual selection in parrots of the world" at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology**

The department Behavioural Ecology & Evolutionary Genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Seewiesen is looking for a PhD student to study the link between sexual dimorphism and the complexity of courtship displays in parrots (Psittaciformes).

The candidate will first compile a data set containing information on a variety of behavioural, sexual, and life-history traits for all parrots of the world based on literature, existing data, and own observations. These data will then be analyzed using modern phylogenetic comparative methods to make inferences about the evolution of these traits. The practical work will take place at the Loro Parque Foundation on Tenerife, which keeps the largest parrot collection in the world and maintains an extensive long-term data base from veterinary stock control and breeding monitoring. The position is funded for the duration of 3 years, with a possible one-year extension. A Master's degree in biology or equivalent is required. A focus on behavioural or evolutionary ecology is preferred, but candidates with a background in comparative cognition, evolutionary genetics, or ecological physiology are also encouraged to apply. The project requires the ability to acquire in-depth knowledge of modern statistical methods in ecological meta-analysis and phylogenetic comparative analysis. We are looking for a person who is enthusiastic and highly motivated to work with captive birds. We expect the candidate to work in a reliable, structured and effective manner, and to have good oral and written communication skills. Preference will be given to applicants that previously have conducted behavioural work and developed skills in data analysis. Ability to communicate in Spanish is advantageous. The successful candidate will join a vibrant, international group of researchers at an institute focused on research on birds and will have the opportunity to work in a multidisciplinary setting, in contact with professionals from an array of fields and institutions. Remuneration will be according to pay group 13/2 TVöD. We provide a supportive research and learning environment with excellent facilities. Working language is English. The candidate may have the opportunity to join the International Max Planck Research School for Organismal Biology. Informal enquiries concerning the position can be made with Mihai Valcu ( [valcu@orn.mpg.de](mailto:valcu@orn.mpg.de) ) or Bart Kempnaers ( [b.ke](mailto:b.ke) )

[mpenaers@orn.mpg.de](mailto:mpenaers@orn.mpg.de)

). To apply, please send a CV, including a list of publications or an electronic copy of a thesis, a statement summarizing your qualifications and indicating why you are interested in the position, and names and contact details of 2-3 references to Carmen Dobus,

[cdobus@orn.mpg.de](mailto:cdobus@orn.mpg.de)

**Applications will be reviewed starting 5 January and will continue until the position is filled.**