

Institute of Avian Research, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

PhD Position in Bird Migration

Application deadline: 31.01.2015

PhD Position in Bird Migration

Institute of Avian Research "Vogelwarte Helgoland", Wilhelmshaven, Germany

The Institute of Avian Research "Vogelwarte Helgoland" in Wilhelmshaven is looking for a PhD student to study the effects of climate change on migratory birds. The Institute is a non-university research center in the portfolio of the Lower Saxonian Ministry of Science and Cultural Affairs. The institute's major research focus is bird migration and population biology. At the institute's field station on the island of Helgoland in the German Bight (North Sea) migrating birds are trapped and ringed all year round under fairly standardized conditions since 1960, offering a unique long-term dataset. Previous analyses already revealed considerable changes in phenology during homeward spring migration but the driving factors beyond these changes are poorly understood. The data offer outstanding opportunities for detailed statistical analyses and modelling. In using weather and various other environmental data (e.g. NDVI) the PhD student is to examine effects of recent global change at both breeding and non-breeding grounds on bird migration phenology and population sizes with particular emphasis on comparative approaches, such as comparing within-Europe migrants with trans-Saharan migrants, first year versus adult birds, early versus late migrants, etc.. The position is available from April 2015 for 3 years and paid according to TVL E13 (<http://oeffentlicher-dienst.info/tv-l/west/>) with 50% of the regular work hours. The place of work will be at the institute's headquarters in Wilhelmshaven. The position requires solid background in biology or a related discipline (Master or Diploma), good knowledge about bird migration, climate and weather, and excellent

statistical skills (e.g. $\hat{\sigma}^2$) as well as competences in modelling, data mining and remote sensing. The candidate should also have a good level of autonomy and creativity. Applicants should send a pdf file via e-mail containing a cover letter with statement of motivation, CV, list of publications, concise statement of research interests, the names and addresses of at least three professional referees, and copies of transcripts and degree certificates

by 31 January 2015

to

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