

## PhD or post-doc positions in bird ecology available

The Institute of Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Brno, Czech Republic) and the Laboratory of Ornithology at the Faculty of Science, Palacký University (Olomouc, Czech Republic) are seeking two highly motivated PhD students to strengthen a joint research team working on carry-over effects and migratory connectivity in birds. The positions are available immediately and may last up to 5 years.

The positions are 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 will employ 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 students interested in avian ecology and animal migration. Candidates for the PhD position should have:

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



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 in Brno offers a salary of 15,470 CZK gross per month, based on a full-time position, plus an additional monthly bursary (7,000 CZK) can be obtained after a successful enrolment in a PhD programme at a university (see below). The Laboratory of Ornithology in Olomouc offers a bursary of 15,000 CZK per month (tax free). 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 positions require residence in Brno or Olomouc and must result in PhD theses within the 5-year contract period. A PhD training program at a Czech university is part of the agreement (application April, interview June, enrolment September 2013). The successful candidate will first be offered a temporary position for one year with the option of renewal for another four years. Extension of the contract depends on sufficient progress in the first year to indicate that a successful completion of the PhD thesis within the next four years is to be expected. The position in Brno may be alternatively arranged as a post-doc position. In that case, the applicant should prove her/his commitment to work on the project within the first year, with a possibility of increasing the salary from 2014.

Applications, including a letter of motivation detailing research interests and experience, a CV, a list of publications (if any), a summary of MSc thesis, and letters of recommendation from two academic referees, should be sent to Petr Procházka (e-mail: [prochazka@ivb.cz](mailto:prochazka@ivb.cz)). The positions will remain open until filled. All applications received **by February 15, 2013** will be given full consideration. For further information about the institutions, please consult <http://www.ivb.cz> and <http://www.zoologie.upol.cz>