

EBC, Ecology and Evolution

Evolution of group living in Ant-eating Chats. Field assistant and/or master level degree projects.

I am looking for a highly motivated person to join me working on the behavioural ecology of cooperative breeding in Ant-eating Chat, *Myrmecocichla formicivora*. The study will focus on factors behind the occurrence of delayed dispersal and cooperative breeding in the species.

Potential projects include:-

1. Genomic analysis of blood samples using a microsatellite multiplex, to determine family relationships and cooperative group structure.
2. Population analysis using Program Mark (Program MARK provides parameter estimates from marked animals when they are re-encountered at a later time.)

Field assistant.

The study site is Benfontein Game Farm (study centre), near Kimberly, Northern Cape, South Africa.

Applicants should have a strong interest in bird orientated research, and banding experience is an advantage. Field assistants are expected to be fit, able to work in a tough and taxing environment, and be willing to work independently. Field workers should be able to live in close proximity to with a small number of other researchers on site.

Responsibilities will include trapping and colour-banding birds both (largely at night), re-sighting banded birds for territory mapping (using GPS), nest-searching and monitoring, monitoring family groups, behavioural observations and data recording (MS Excel). The working conditions will include considerable distances covered on foot in both cold and hot conditions (0° to 40°C+) and regular early morning working (whilst cool and the birds are active), and regular work after dark (trapping and banding done at night). Driving experience would be an advantage. The work will be done for 5-6 days per week, and the applicant needs to be willing to work outside normal hours.

The position is available from mid-October until mid-December 2009.

Accommodation is provided in the field study centre.

To apply, please email

1. A short letter stating why you are interested,
2. A copy of your CV, including details of past field experience and bird handling/banding experience, and
3. The contact details for two referees,

to Jonathan Barnaby at: Jonathan.Barnaby@ebc.uu.se

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or for further information.

Telephone: +46(0)184712673 Mobile: +46(0)739044651 Fax: +46(0)184716424

Website: www.popbiol.uu.se

Evolutionary Biology Centre, Population and Conservation Biology, Department of Ecology and Evolution, Uppsala University in collaboration with the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, UCT, South Africa.