

The Migration Ecology Group of the Institute of Biology and Environmental Sciences (IBU) at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg is seeking to fill the following position **from 01.02.2025** (earlier or later possible on mutual agreement)

**PhD position (m/f/d) in Migration Ecology**  
(salary group 13 TV-L, 65%)



for a period of three years. The research focus of the working group is on stopover and flight ecology, the spatiotemporal organisation of bird migration, orientation/navigation, and the eco-evolutionary functions of migration. The position is embedded in a project on the migration ecology of the northern wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) breeding on the island of Norderney.

The successful candidate will focus on three main objectives: i) Quantifying pre-migratory flight behaviour in juvenile and adult northern wheatears. ii) Factors influencing the start of autumn migration. iii) Carry-over effects on the arrival time on the breeding area. Large parts of the field study have already been conducted, so the focus will be on data analysis, though fieldwork will be continued for several years. The combination of an array of radio receiving stations (Motus, <https://motus.org/>) in the North Sea and radio-transmitters running for > 1 year will enable the candidate to record the spatiotemporal characteristics of the pre-migratory flights, the start of autumn migration and subsequent breeding area arrival timing in detail.

**Main responsibilities**

- analysing complex radio-tracking data derived from a large-scale array of multiple Motus radio receiving stations (using R, including writing complex functions to extract certain behavioural traits, potentially in combination with AI),
- statistical analyses of multifaceted and large data sets using R,
- conducting field studies on Norderney for several weeks during the three years,
- formulating and solving scientific problems and interpreting research results,
- collaborating with other scientists of the university and beyond
- writing scientific publications and presenting results at international conferences

**Applicant's profile**

We seek a smart and highly motivated student with

- a university degree (Diploma (Uni) or Master) in a relevant subject, e.g. biology, zoology, ecology, but also physics, mathematics, if a strong interest in ecological topics is shown,
- general interest in bird migration, movement ecology and orientation/navigation,
- extensive experience with the statistical software R (including modelling and programming),
- ability to work with and statistically analyse large datasets,
- interest in biological/ornithological fieldwork,
- motivation for fieldwork on the island of Norderney for several weeks each year,
- ability to work both independently and creatively and as part of a team and
- excellent oral and written communication skills in English.

## Position

The position is available for three years and paid according to TVL E13 (<http://oeffentlicherdienst.info/tv-l/west/>) with 65% of the regular working hours. The workplace will be at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg in the working group "Migration Ecology".

## What can you expect?

- a friendly, cooperative and productive working group
- support with strategic planning of your current and future scientific career
- the freedom to develop your own research profile within the area of the project
- access to technicians in the lab and in the field
- a large-scale network of MOTUS radio-receiving stations in the German Bight
- excellent opportunities to build and expand your professional network with international scientists
- optional scientific education in the Graduate school OLTECH at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (<https://uol.de/oltech>)

The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg is committed to increasing the proportion of female employees in science. Therefore, female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply. In accordance with § 21 Para. 3 NHG, women are given preferential consideration in the case of equal suitability. Severely disabled applicants will be given preferential consideration in case of equal suitability. The position is suitable for part-time employment.

Please send your application in English by e-mail (attachment in a single (!) pdf document) by **17.11.2024** to Prof. Dr. Heiko Schmaljohann (e-mail: [heiko.schmaljohann@uni-oldenburg.de](mailto:heiko.schmaljohann@uni-oldenburg.de)). The application needs to include a cover letter including a concise statement of motivation and research interests (1-2 pages), the names and addresses of two professional referees, a CV (with academic education/degrees, professional experience, fellowships/awards, conference contributions, experience with R (!) and further relevant skills, such as handling large datasets) and copies of transcripts and degree certificates. Interviews are scheduled for the 49<sup>th</sup> calendar week in 2024. Further information about the working group can be found at <https://uol.de/en/migration-ecology>. For further questions, contact Prof. Dr Heiko Schmaljohann via e-mail.

Please note that application and interview costs cannot be covered.