Field Assistant Position

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Team lab: Department of Behavioural Ecology: http://behaecol.home.amu.edu.pl/

Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Biology (Poznań): https://amu.edu.pl/en/AMU-Faculties/faculty-of-biology

Topic: Function and mechanisms of intra-group communication during territory defense in a cooperative-breeding bird species, the Yellow-breasted barbet (Trachyphonus margaritatus).

Cooperative behaviour is a prominent feature in cooperative-breeding species and continues to pose challenges to our understanding about the evolution of social relationships and task coordination between members of a same social group. One of the most conspicuous cooperative behaviour is assuredly the production of duets and choruses, which can be defined as an interactive vocal display, involving several individuals who are synchronizing their behaviour to sing at the same moment. Communal signal as cooperative behaviour is strongly associated with territoriality and long term relationships between individuals, which explains that it is used by many avian cooperative-breeding systems, especially to defend their territory and resources. The purpose of this present project is to identify what kind of information group members share between them and how they mediate their relationships, to organize and improve their cooperation during troop defensive movements as well as singing in chorus.

Here a video of a chorus: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APPQFMnJ6uM

1) A female yellow-breasted barbet
2) Pictures of the habitat of the species
**Field Assistant Position**

**Field assistant duty:** a field assistant is needed to assist the PhD student for catching and ring birds and to take part in the experiments. We plan to conduct playback experiments and record the vocal and behavioural response of birds during simulated territorial intrusion with audio and video recordings. The aim is to know whether rallying calls and troop movement’s initiation are produced mainly by specific individuals (dominant pair or helpers) in the group and analyse the social relationships between members during a chorus.

Requirements:

- We are looking for someone experienced in catching birds. The candidate should have experience with handling, banding, and (if possible) blood sampling.
- Experience with bird recording in the field and knowledge in bioacoustics and/or in bird communication will be appreciated but not necessary.
- Strong motivation for fieldwork and birding (we will work within protected areas managed by a local association, which could ask us to make a short report of bird species encountered during the fieldwork).
- English and/or French speaking skills are needed.
- Good physical fitness required, with experience working outdoors (mountains, desert), walking or standing for extended periods of time.
- Living in remoted field camp.
- Autonomy and rigor are essentials to conduct the experiments and get good data.

**Location:** Djibouti     **Duration:** 1 month - February 2019.

**Salary:** No     **Compensation:** Yes. The costs of the trip (flight tickets/visa/costs of living) will be covered by our grant.

**Training:** Training in Bioacoustics using R for detection/extraction/analysis of sound will be provided if the candidate is interested (prerequisite: R introduction; R intermediate; Data visualisation with R).

See: [https://www.datacamp.com/](https://www.datacamp.com/).

**To apply:** please send a cover letter and a resume at this email address: mathieumahamoudissa@hotmail.fr

**Deadline:** 10 November 2018.