

# Post-doc Position at University of Debrecen, Hungary

ÉLVONAL (cutting edge) – Breeding system evolution in shorebirds



**Our team** is carrying out a 5-year project focusing on breeding system evolution through the use of behavioural, genomic and demographic approaches. The project uses shorebirds (i.e., plovers, sandpipers, and allies) as model organisms since they exhibit an unusual diversity of mating systems and parental care (see references). The need recently emerged for a post-doctoral position.

This job offers a great opportunity for a post-doc who wants to combine fieldwork with cutting-edge evolutionary and behavioural science, and establish herself/himself in an emerging field of organismal biology. The main tasks are to carry out and supervise field studies, primarily in Madagascar and elsewhere (see <https://elvonalsshorebirds.com/>). We seek candidates with experience in sexual selection, mating systems and reproductive strategies and field biology (preferable with birds), and skills in behavioural analyses and population demography. Publications in top peer-reviewed journals, excellent communication skills, and database handling are essential. The position will be based in Debrecen and the data analyses will be carried out jointly with Prof Robert Freckleton (University of Sheffield), Prof Oliver Kruger (University of Bielefeld) and Dr Brett Sandercock (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research).

This is a full-time position and the salary will be above the normal Hungarian level (up to 1500 EUR, depending on experience). Note that the cost of living in Hungary is substantially less than in the US or Western Europe. The position is initially for 1 year (subject to probation period) with the possibility of extension. See further specifications below.

**Application deadline is 29 February 2020.** The application should include a (1) max two pages cover letter, (2) CV with list of publications, and (3) the name and contact details of two academic referees. French speakers are especially encouraged to apply. The applications should be emailed to Ms Fanni Takacs [fannitakacs.94@gmail.com](mailto:fannitakacs.94@gmail.com). Interviews will be in early March and the position is available from 1 April 2020. Applications from women and minority candidates are welcome.

Debrecen is the second largest city in Hungary and has a lively university community. The [University of Debrecen](#) was established in 1538, and it is one of the prestigious universities in Central Europe. The university has over 4000 students – many are from abroad. The [Dept. of Evolutionary Zoology and Human Biology](#) is one of the leading departments in natural sciences. Debrecen Airport has connections with some of the main European airports. Debrecen's surrounding has impressive wildlife and landscape that include [Hortobágy National Park](#), a UNESCO-recognised protected area. See details at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University\\_of\\_Debrecen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Debrecen) <http://zoology.unideb.hu/home/> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hortob%C3%A1gy\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hortob%C3%A1gy_National_Park)

### **Selected publications**

Eberhart-Phillips, L. J. et al. 2017. Adult sex ratio bias in snowy plovers is driven by sex-specific early survival: implications for mating systems and population growth. *Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 114: E5474-E5481.

Kubelka, V., M. Šálek, P. Tomkovich, Zs. Végvári, R. Freckleton & T. Székely. 2018. Global pattern of nest predation is disrupted by climate change in shorebirds. *Science* 362: 680-683.

Liker, A., R. P. Freckleton & T. Székely. 2013. The evolution of sex roles in birds is related to adult sex ratio. *Nature Communications* 4: 1587.

Vincze, O. et al. 2016. Parental cooperation in a changing climate: fluctuating environments predict shifts in care division. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 26: 347-358.

### **Further specifications of the position**

Employer: University of Debrecen, Dept. of Evolutionary Zoology & Human Biology, University of Debrecen, H-4032, Egyetem ter 1, Hungary

### **Job description**

- The post-doc will carry out research in shorebird populations included in the ELVONAL project (Madagascar and possibly elsewhere) in regards to mating system and parental care
- coordinate research associated with the ELVONAL project: supervise PhD students and research assistants, and coordinate research with external collaborators
- coordinate behavioural recording, data analyses, and preparations of manuscripts for publication within the broad fields of sexual selection, mating systems and/or evolutionary demography
- present the results at conferences and research seminars, and promote the results of the ELVONAL project
- assist administration associated with the project
- carry out other scientific and/or academic activities that are deemed necessary for the success of the project

### Requirements:

- PhD in evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, zoology, or relevant field of life sciences
- extensive knowledge in sex roles, mating systems, parental care and/or evolutionary demography
- at least 2 years post-doctoral experience in avian field ecology, behavioural ecology or a relevant field
- skills in statistical modelling (e.g., mixed-effects regression, mark-recapture analysis, population matrix modelling)
- at least 5 published (or accepted) research papers in peer-reviewed journals
- advanced knowledge of R programming, database management, and data wrangling
- international field experience studying wild populations (preferably birds)
- experience in bird ringing and preferably ringing licence
- valid driving licence

For further information please contact Ms Fanni Takacs [fannitakacs.94@gmail.com](mailto:fannitakacs.94@gmail.com)

