



# Institut für Vogelforschung

„Vogelwarte Helgoland“

Wilhelmshaven



The Institute of Avian Research "Vogelwarte Helgoland" is a non-university research institute in the portfolio of the Lower Saxonian Ministry of Science and Cultural Affairs. The Institute members conduct fundamental research on the complex relationships between birds and their environments. The central research foci are bird migration and life history biology. In addition, the Institute houses the Bird Ringing Centre for Northwest Germany.

We are searching for a **PhD student** (3 years, salary level TV-L E13, 65%)

The successful candidate will work in the team of Prof. Dr. Miriam Liedvogel, and be jointly supervised by Dr. Oscar Vedder (Institute of Avian Research) and Dr. Pablo Salmón (University of Glasgow and University of the Basque Country), and investigate causes and consequences of among- and within-individual variation in mitochondrial function in a captive population of Japanese quail.

The Institute houses a large captive population of Japanese quail with a detailed pedigree. The quail are an excellent model species to investigate causes and consequences of mitochondrial function, because they mate indiscriminately (allowing specific breeding designs), mature rapidly (allowing multi-generational sampling), have a relatively short lifespan (allowing estimation of lifetime performance), and their development rate and reproductive rate can be easily quantified and manipulated. Potential research avenues that can be pursued are the inheritance of mitochondrial traits, inbreeding depression and ageing in mitochondrial function, and their potential to predict individual fitness, but research questions are not fixed and can be tailored to the specific interest of the student.

The main responsibilities of the student will be to:

- Design and carry out (breeding) experiments and collect blood samples, using the quail as a model species.
- Analyse collected samples for mitochondrial function.
- Run statistical analyses on the collected data.
- Publish papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals as a first and co-author.
- Present the work at national and international conferences.

We therefore seek an enthusiastic and dedicated student with:

- A MSc degree in biology.
- A strong interest in studying physiology in an ecological and evolutionary framework.
- Affinity and experience with laboratory analyses.
- Experience with statistically analysing data in R.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.

Applicants should send a single pdf file via e-mail, containing a statement of motivation, CV, and the names and addresses of two professional referees by 15.01.2022 to [poststelle@ifv-vogelwarte.de](mailto:poststelle@ifv-vogelwarte.de). Questions regarding the project can be directed to Dr. Oscar Vedder ([oscar.vedder@ifv-vogelwarte.de](mailto:oscar.vedder@ifv-vogelwarte.de)). Interviews (online) are preliminary scheduled for 25.01.2022.

The Institute of Avian Research is an equal opportunity employer, committed to inclusion and diversity and welcomes applications from people from all groups and backgrounds. In addition, the Institute is committed to (i) increase the proportion of women in successful scientific careers (§11 of the Niedersächsisches Gleichberechtigungsgesetz), (ii) promote the equality of (severely) disabled and non-disabled people, and (iii) provide opportunities for people with a migration background. As such, it especially welcomes applications from female scientists, (severely) disabled scientists and immigrated scientists. In case of equal suitability and qualifications, these applications will be given preference.