

POST-DOC POSITION

in behavioral ecology and evolution of shorebirds

University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary

Social interactions are among the most fascinating aspects of animal behaviour. This project will focus on the demographic drivers of sex role reversal in shorebirds (plovers, sandpipers and allies), when females compete for mates and males provide parental care. Results from cutting edge research carried out by our team (see references below & on our websites) suggest that role reversal occur in species where males are the more common sex. However, solid field data on sex ratios are scarce and the processes generating skewed sex ratios are largely unknown.

The successful candidate will join an international team of scientists working on shorebird ecology, behaviour and conservation, and will carry out a field study on a sex role reversed, polyandrous species. Most likely target species include the Bronze-winged and/or Pheasant-tailed Jacana, with potential field sites in India or Taiwan. This exciting project will collect data on breeding behaviour, offspring sex ratio, and survival of males and females in a closely monitored population. We will use demographic modelling to estimate adult sex ratio and to identify its most important determinants. The project will also contribute to our largescale comparative studies in shorebirds worldwide (see <https://elvonashorebirds.com/>)



The project is led by Prof András Liker (University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary, see <http://ornithology.limnologia.hu/>), and is part of a collaboration with Dr Vojtěch Kubelka (University of Debrecen, Hungary), Prof Tamás Székely (University of Bath, UK), and Dr András Kosztolanyi (University of Veterinary Science, Budapest, Hungary) to understand breeding system evolution using shorebirds as model organisms. The research group uses English as the communication language.

This job offers an opportunity for an early-stage post-doc who wants to combine fieldwork with cutting-edge evolutionary and behavioural science. The main tasks of the post-doc are to organize, carry out and supervise field studies. We seek candidates with experience in behavioural ecology and field biology preferable with birds/shorebirds. Publications in high-quality peer-reviewed journals, excellent communication skills, and solid skills in data handling are essential. See further specifications below.

This is a full-time position and the salary will be above the normal Hungarian level (up to 1200 EUR, depending on experience). Note that the cost of living in Hungary is substantially less than in Western Europe and in the US. The current position is for 22 months (subject to probation period), with possibility of extension (pending on the availability of further funding).

Application deadline is 31 January 2019, although the screening of candidates may start earlier. The application should include (1) a max two pages cover letter, (2) a CV with list of publications, and (3)

the name and contact details of four referees preferably from research, academia or conservation. The applications should be emailed to Prof András Liker (andras.liker@gmail.com). The position is available from 1st March 2019.

Selected publications:

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

Pipoly, I., Bókony, V., Kirkpatrick, M., Donald, P. F. Székely, T. & Liker, A. 2015. The genetic sex determination system predicts the adult sex ratio in tetrapods. *Nature* 527: 91–94.

Schacht, R., Kramer, K.L., Székely, T. & Kappeler, P.M. 2017. Adult sex ratios and reproductive strategies: a critical re-examination of sex differences in human and animal societies. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B* 372: 20160309.

Eberhart-Phillips, L. J. et al. 2018. Demographic causes of adult sex ratio variation and their consequences for parental cooperation. *Nature Communications* 9: 1651

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

Job description:

- The post-doc will organize and carry out field work in a foreign country
- supervise PhD students and research assistants, coordinate research with external collaborators
- coordinate data collection and analyses, and preparation of publications
- present and promote the results at conferences and research seminars
- 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
- solid knowledge of evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, and/or ornithology
- experience in carrying out or supervising international research projects
- at least 2 years experience in field work related to avian ecology or behavioural ecology
- good skills in statistical modelling, advanced level in using R
- at least 5 published (or accepted) research papers in peer-reviewed journals
- experience in bird ringing, and preferably a ringing licence
- valid driving licence