



Anthropogenic biases in macroecological and macroevolutionary patterns in birds

Carl Tryggers Postdoctoral Fellow in macro ecology and macro evolution of birds at the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Gothenburg University

Closing date: 15th of December 2020 or as soon as the position is filled.

Birds are one of the most charismatic and well-studied group of animals, yet we know very little about how humans have affected their global patterns of diversity and evolutionary history, but we hope to partly mitigate that in this project.

This project is part of a larger initiative on the effects of humans on macroecological and macroevolutionary patterns in birds. The project has Søren Faurby (<https://tinyurl.com/Faurby>) as a PI and Tim Blackburn (<https://tinyurl.com/Tim-Blackburn>; a bird macro-ecologist at University College London) and Manuel Steinbauer (<https://tinyurl.com/Steinbauer>; an island biologist at University of Bayreuth) as major cooperation partners. The postdoc will work in collaboration with Ferran Sayol (<https://tinyurl.com/Ferran-Sayol>) and Robert Cooke (<https://tinyurl.com/Robert-Cooke>) who previously has worked on the project and have gathered substantial databases the postdoc can employ for their work. The postdoc will also have the opportunity to collaborate with a wide group of scientists at the Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre, which is the research environment where the postdoc will work (ggbc.gu.se).

Earlier work by the PI has discovered substantial biases in macro-scale analyses of mammals, when conclusions are drawn based only on present-day distributions (a few examples listed below). The goal of this project is to investigate whether those biases are restricted to mammals (which are expected to be particularly sensitive to anthropogenic impacts), or are more general and affect other organisms, like birds. No papers have yet been published within the project but submitted papers by Ferran Sayol and Robert Cooke have highlighted substantial biases in trait evolution and extinction patterns - which may stimulate further work from the postdoc - and have also generated a large dataset for the incoming postdoc to analyse.

Related manuscript from previous work by the PI:

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ddi.12369/full

[nature.com/articles/s41558-018-0089-x](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-018-0089-x)

esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ecy.2443

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ele.13451>

Eligibility

The applicant must hold a PhD in an area relevant for the tasks at hand (macroecology, ornithology, spatial analysis, macroevolution, palaeontology, or related fields). Note that the thesis must be awarded prior to the starting date of this position.

Other required qualifications:

- Documented capacity to work both in groups and independently
- Advanced skills in R or potentially another analytical platform
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English

Assessment (other desirable qualifications)

- A strong publication record (relative to the applicants' scientific age)
- Experience with handling and ideally generating large databases
- Experience with spatial and macro-evolutionary analyses
- Knowledge of the study group (birds)
- Experience in palaeontology and or taxonomy

Application is by email (to soren.faurby@bioenv.gu.se), must be written in English and must include (all combined into a single PDF file):

- A cover letter with the applicant's justification for the application which describes how the applicant meets the selection criteria and potentially her / his plans for this project (max. two A4 pages)
- A list of qualifications (full CV)
- Certificate of PhD exam and other relevant education
- Complete list of publications, including submitted and accepted manuscripts highlighting the up to five most important papers related to the application
- Contact information for at least two referees that are familiar with the applicant's work

Top ranked candidates will be selected for an interview, which will be held in English over zoom

Postdoctoral positions are appointed primarily for purposes of research. Applicants are expected to hold a doctoral (PhD) degree.

The position is funded by a tax-free Carl-Tryggers postdoctoral scholarship. Start date: as per agreement (but as soon as possible).

Distance working is possible but the stipend can only be paid to a Swedish bank account.

Gothenburg University strives to be a workplace free from discrimination and with equal opportunities for all.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (Soren.Faurby@bioenv.gu.se) with any questions related to the position.

