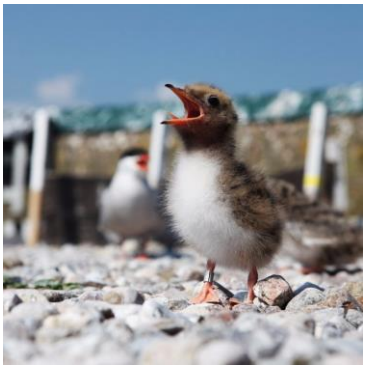
Climate change effects in the migratory behaviour of common terns


Migration is an essential part of the life cycle of a wide range of species, including birds. Departure decisions from/to wintering grounds in birds can depend on favourable climatic conditions and food resources, and may be underlined by a genetic component. The project will make use of 30 years of individual-based data from a pedigreed population of common terns (*Sterna hirundo*) located in Wilhelmshaven (Germany), to investigate the evolutionary ecology of departure timing in autumn migration. Overall, the project will provide a unique opportunity to work with a long-term dataset of a natural population, acquire strong analytical skills, and gain experience in diverse fieldwork methodologies.

Description:
The project is open for students interested in pursuing a Master's degree and who would like to gain experience both in fieldwork and analytical approaches. We are looking for a highly motivated student who can start by end of April 2022. The student will be based in the lab of Sandra Bouwhuis (twitter.com/CommonTerns), and will do fieldwork at the Banter See in Wilhelmshaven (Germany).

The student will participate in the general monitoring of the breeding population and can be involved in (i) behavioural observations, (ii) reproductive checks, (iii) blood sampling using bloodsucking bugs, (iv) ring reading and (v) general colony maintenance. The fieldwork can be demanding but is shared within a team and will involve many close interactions with the birds. Prior experience with birds or fieldwork is appreciated, but not required. Experience working with statistics and R would be useful, but not mandatory. The student will be working in a highly dynamic and international team, and should be comfortable using English as the main working language.

Interested students are invited to get in contact with Dr Maria Moiron (mariamoironc@gmail.com) and Dr Sandra Bouwhuis (sandra.bouwhuis@ifv-vogelwarte.de). A brief motivation statement and/or CV will be appreciated.

Dr Maria Moiron (mariamoiron.weebly.com)