

PhD Position Studying Song in Savannah Sparrows

Dan Mennill (University of Windsor) and Ryan Norris (University of Guelph) are searching for a Canadian graduate student to join their laboratories for a co-supervised PhD position studying acoustic communication and cultural evolution in Savannah Sparrows.



The project will focus on the singing behaviour and cultural evolution of song in a long-term study population of Savannah Sparrows. Research will involve new field technologies that have been pioneered, in part, by the Mennill and Norris laboratories, including microphone arrays, multi-channel playback, automated radiotelemetry, and geolocators. There is room for the applicant to move the project in the direction of their own interests, within the framework of the study of acoustic communication and cultural evolution.



Field research will involve spring and summer months on Kent Island, New Brunswick studying a marked population of Savannah Sparrows at Bowdoin Scientific Research Station. This is a remote research station, and the applicant must be excited about living in a wilderness setting with simple facilities and an abundance of natural beauty. The applicant must have strong interpersonal skills and be ready to work as part of a small research team.



Laboratory research will be conducted on-campus in the Mennill Sound Analysis Laboratory at the University of Windsor, with interactions and trips to the Norris Laboratory at the University of Guelph. Both the Mennill and Norris Labs are dynamic research environments, collectively home to eighteen graduate students, four postdocs, and many undergraduate students. The Mennill lab ranks among the world's most comprehensive and active laboratories devoted to the study of bird song and the Norris lab is an international leader in the study of migration ecology.



Competitive funding will be provided through teaching assistantships and summer research assistantships. Expenses associated with field research will be covered.



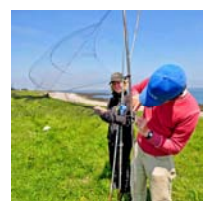
Qualifications: Applicant must be Canadian or a Canadian resident and have a Bachelor's degree and preferably a Master's degree. Must have a passion for birdwatching and studying avian acoustic behaviour (including early-morning recording sessions). Must have experience with field ornithology and, ideally, experience with mist-netting and field recording. Must have a serious love of working outdoors in remote, rugged conditions along with a strong work ethic, a sense of adventure, and the ability to work with others in a small field team.



Starting dates: Start date is open. Field work takes place from April to August each year. On-campus activities begin in September each year. Therefore, an April or September start date is ideal, either in 2014 or 2015. Applications will be considered until the position is filled.



Contact information: If you're interested please email both Dan (dmennill@uwindsor.ca) and Ryan (rnorris@uoguelph.ca) to introduce yourself. Please include your CV, an expression of interest, an unofficial transcript, and a list of references.



Find out more:

Mennill Lab website: www.uwindsor.ca/dmennill

Norris Lab website: www.uoguelph.ca/~rnorris

