

Field Assistant Position / Master Student Internship– Impact of Urbanisation on Songbird Reproduction

We invite applications for a **Master Student Internship/Field Assistant** to join our research group in the Department of Behavioural Ecology at **Bielefeld University, Germany** (https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/biologie/forschung/arbeitsgruppen/behav_eco/). The successful candidate will support our upcoming field season (February–July 2026) on the project *“The impact of urbanisation on great tit and blue tit reproduction.”*

This is an exciting opportunity to gain hands-on experience in **urban ecology and behavioural ecology** while working in an international, collaborative environment.

About the Project

The project investigates how urbanisation shapes reproduction in two model songbird species: the great tit (*Parus major*) and the blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*). Fieldwork will focus on **nest box populations across different urban habitats**, combining behavioural monitoring, ecological data collection, and physiological sampling.

Supervision will be provided by **Dr. Öncü Maracı** and **Prof. Barbara Caspers**. The working language of the group is English.

Job Description

As a Field Assistant, you will:

- Coordinate and perform daily monitoring of nest boxes across multiple city sites.
- Collect environmental and reproductive data.
- Help during capturing, ringing, and measuring the birds and sample collection
- Maintain accurate field records and contribute to data organisation.
- Support preliminary analyses and reporting.

Qualifications

Essential:

- Bachelor's degree in Biology, Ecology, Animal Behaviour, or a related discipline.
- Strong interest in behavioural and/or urban ecology.
- Previous fieldwork experience.
- Physical fitness and resilience to work long hours outdoors.
- Excellent organisational skills, reliability, and teamwork.
- Strong communication skills in spoken and written English.

Desirable:

- Experience in handling wild birds.
- Bird ringing licence.

- Familiarity with statistical methods and R.
- Valid driving licence.

What We Offer

- Training in nest box monitoring, bird handling, and techniques in urban ecology.
- A stimulating, supportive, and international research environment.
- Opportunity to base a **Master's thesis** on the project.
- Potential continuation towards a **PhD**, subject to future funding.
- Contribution to cutting-edge research with direct relevance to animal ecology and conservation.
- Financial compensation to help cover living expenses, adjusted according to the candidate's qualifications and experience.

Application

Please send your **motivation letter** and **CV** (in English) to **Dr. Öncü Maracı** (oncu.maraci@uni-bielefeld.de) by the **7th of November, 2025**.

For informal enquiries about the position, the research group, or living in Bielefeld, please contact **Dr. Öncü Maracı** (oncu.maraci@uni-bielefeld.de).

Bielefeld University is an **equal-opportunity employer**. We particularly welcome applications from individuals from underrepresented groups.