

Volunteer Field Assistant Position on the Pheasant-tailed jacana in Thailand

Project description:

The Pheasant-tailed jacana project was started by Prof. András Liker, University of Pannonia, Veszprém (Hungary) with Dr. Nolwenn Fresneau as a postdoctoral researcher in 2019. This project focuses on understanding the demographic drivers of sex-role reversal and skewed sex adult ratio in this fascinating polyandrous and sex-role reversed shorebird. During the first year of this project (2019) Dr. Nolwenn Fresneau spent 3 months in Taiwan in order to conduct field studies. In 2020 the field work will move to a new study site in Thailand as part of a newly made collaboration with Dr Wangworn Sankamethawe, Khon Kaen University. This project is also in collaboration with the “Elvonal Shorebird Science project” which is an international project involving some world leading researchers in shorebird ([see webpage](#)).



Role description:

We are currently recruiting a Volunteer Field Assistant for our 2020 field season. The position will be available for a 2 or 3 months period, starting from mid/early May 2020. The study site will be situated near Khon Kaen city (Thailand).

The fieldwork will involve daily behavioural observation of jacanas as well as nest monitoring and nest finding. The field assistant will also participate in the catching, measuring and ringing of the birds.

This position will be under the supervision of Dr. Nolwenn Fresneau who will be on the field through the whole season.

The assistant is expected to work 5 days per week with sometimes long working days. However, schedule and day off can be adapted according to the bird and nest timetable.

What expenses we cover:

This is an unpaid position, the field assistant has to arrange his/her own transport to the field site as well as VISA, insurance and needed vaccination. However, from the moment the volunteer arrives at the field site all the work-related costs, including accommodation and meals will be covered.

Who we are looking for:

We are looking for someone strongly motivated with an interest in evolutionary and behavioural ecology and working in the field with animals. The assistant should be able to handle some hard-working condition with sometimes long working days: Pheasant-tailed jacanas get up with the sun (between 5 and 6 am) and are quite active until dusk (between 7 and 8pm) with every now and then small breaks around noon. Some evenings might be used for bird catching. Temperature during the day will be above 30°C with numerous heavy but short rainfall.

We are especially looking for applicant with the following skills:

- reliability,
- resourcefulness (good problem solving ability),
- good levels of physical fitness (can handle being all day in the field and hot weather),
- adaptability (can handle being in a different country and can adapt to the culture),
- easy-going,
- good level of English (is able to communicate with the team).

We also would appreciate experience in bird handling or other previous fieldwork experience.

What to get out of it:

- an amazing opportunity to learn new skills,
- discover a new culture and observe the amazing Thai wildlife,
- get involved in an international research project,
- this experience can be extremely useful especially for future Master or PhD student
- this work can be part of a small project to get credit points from an university.

How to apply

If you are interested in this position or need more information, you can send an email to **nolwenn.fresneau@gmail.com**. Application should be sent by the **1st of March 2020** the latest to this email address with “Volunteer position application” as the subject. It should contain a CV including the name and e-mail contact of at least two referees as well as a cover letter.

We will notify the successful shortlisted candidates on the 6th of March 2020 the latest and job interview by skype meeting will be held during the week of the 9th of March 2020. Decision will be made around the 13th of March 2020.