

The effect of urbanization on the life history of birds



Desired Academic Year: Freshman-junior, but seniors considered

Hours Per Week: 10-12

It is commonly observed that birds inhabiting cities live longer, but have lower annual reproduction than their rural counterparts. We suggest that reduced investment in reproduction might be a result of longer life expectancy in the cities. This is a novel hypothesis that has never been tested in natural populations of birds before, and it could have a huge impact on our understanding of how urbanization affects wild animals.

I am looking for **undergraduate assistants** to help with field work for research credit (BIO 310). The field work will take place in four different locations, two urban and two rural (ASU Tempe campus, Downtown Phoenix, South Mountain Park, Estrella Mountain Park) from the end of February to the end of May. It will include monitoring the reproduction of finches, growth of the nestlings, parental behavior observation, and occasional trapping and sampling of birds. If you are interested in lab work experience in the fields of oxidative stress physiology and parasitology, this could also be included to your tasks.

To apply, please email Tuul Sepp (tuul.sepp@gmail.com) with a brief description of 1) your research and career interests, 2) your prior experience (if any), and 3) why you are interested in working on this project. No prior experience is required. Please do not hesitate to contact me to ask any further questions!