**Bold urbanites and shy hillbillies: do city birds have unique personalities?**

Dr. Kevin McGraw's lab is looking for an undergraduate student to assist with field and laboratory studies of house finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area. We are studying the effects of and adaptations to urbanization in this native Sonoran desert songbird species. We have previously detected strong phenotypic divergence among urban and rural birds, with desert dwellers being more sexually attractive than their town and city counterparts. Our current research is aimed at understanding possible personality differences (e.g. bold, exploratory, aggressive, predator wariness) between birds from urban and rural habitats.

Student responsibilities include assisting in the set-up and execution of behavioral experiments. Morning availability between 6 and 10 a.m. is important. We're looking for a student who is excited about getting hands-on experience studying bird behavior. You will have the opportunity to see more than one project from beginning to completion, including a large amount of work in our campus aviary and scoring behaviors from videos.

Applicants should have a general educational background in biology and an interest in ecological, evolutionary, physiological and/or behavioral research; they will be trained in all field and laboratory techniques by members of our lab. Students will be expected to work no less than 10 hours per week on this project; this includes background readings, actual field/lab research, and attendance at weekly lab meetings where we discuss our own research and other topics on bird coloration. The convenience of working on local populations of birds and the multi-dimensional nature of this project allow for somewhat-flexible and long-term work on aspects of the project that most interest the student.

If you are interested in this position, please send a resume and a one-page statement about your background and long-term academic goals by email to:

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