

From: Savidge, Julie
Subject: Post-Doctoral Fellow – Survival strategies and seed dispersal by the threatened Micronesian Starling on Guam, Mariana Islands

Description:

This research position is part of a larger collaborative DoD SERDP project aimed at restoring ecosystem function (specifically seed dispersal) to Guam's forests. Native seed dispersers have been extirpated or greatly reduced on Guam, largely due to predation by the invasive Brown Treesnake.

Micronesian Starlings are the only remaining native avian frugivore on Guam; the population is largely restricted to Andersen Air Force Base and presumably remains because of its ability to utilize urban and suburban environments and its capacity to persist in areas under snake control. By understanding how this species has survived on Guam, we might be able to develop ways to expand its population, and thus the ecological functions it provides.

The responsibilities of this postdoctoral position, based largely on Guam, are to investigate the diet of Micronesian Starlings and their movement patterns to understand which tree species benefit and predict the area over which an individual bird could provide seed dispersal services. By comparing diet and movement of Micronesian Starlings between Saipan, where data has already been collected, and Guam, we can gain valuable information on the functions they are performing on Guam and how their diet and capacity to disperse seeds may have changed due to the lack of competitors and/or high snake predation pressure. Telemetry will be used to determine movements, roosting locations, and to study post-fledging survival. The successful candidate will lead data collection by the field crew and have primary responsibility for analysis, presentation, and publication of the research. The incumbent will work collaboratively with others involved with the project. Applicants must be able to work in rugged terrain and in hot, humid conditions. Airfare and some relocation expenses provided.

Qualifications:

Required: 1) Ph.D. by the appointment start date in a discipline related to the research described above, 2) Practical experience in the design, conduct, and statistical analysis of ecological field studies, 3) Demonstrated ability to prepare and submit professional manuscripts in refereed journals, 4) Excellent written and oral communication skills, 5) Eligible to work in the United States by proposed start date. FWCB will not provide visa sponsorship for this position.

Desirable: Experience in 1) Analysis of avian habitat use and movement patterns, 2) Mist-netting and banding birds, 3) Post-fledging survival, 4) Avian seed dispersal, 5) Radio-telemetry, 6) GIS, and 7) Collaborative projects. Additionally, past experience supervising a field crew, and working in challenging conditions is desirable.

Start Date and Duration: Anticipated February or March 2017 start (later spring start dates will be considered). The position duration is up to 2 years depending on start date.

Application Procedure: To apply, upload a cover letter that includes how you satisfy the required and desirable qualifications and your research interests; curriculum vitae; representative publications; and contact information for at least 3 professional references to the following address: <http://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/38621>. Applications will be accepted

until the position is filled, but to ensure full consideration, applications should be submitted by December 4, 2016.

For more information contact: Dr. Julie Savidge, julie.savidge@colostate.edu, 970 491-6510.

CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates.