Position: Bioacoustics Analysis Intern
Location: The OVEN, Dept. of Biology, Algoma University
Start Date: 6 Sept 2021 or earlier
Application Deadline: 18 June 2021 or until position is filled
Hours: 37.5 hours/week
Salary: $35,000
Duration of Internship: 52 weeks

The OVEN (Ornithology, Vocalization, and Ecology Network) at Algoma University requires a motivated and independent recent graduate to work in the Biology Department as a Bioacoustics Analysis Intern. The internship is funded by the Northern Ontario Internship Program of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. The intern will work collaboratively with Algoma students on several projects.

We are looking for an intern to participate in a number of new and ongoing bioacoustics projects in my lab and to support undergraduate students working in our lab. The goals of the internship are to explore individual variation in vocal behaviour in songbirds. Our lab is interested in the interplay between plasticity and repeatability of song traits and how these factors shapes the evolution of vocal behaviour in birds. We will examine how the structure and production of vocalizations varies at both the among and within individual levels to better understand which features of vocal behaviour contain consistent information about individuals (are repeatable) and which features are more plastically adjusted. Songbirds are an excellent system in which to study these questions because there are a large number of traits that we can consider together including: start and end time of song activity, song rate, bout length, song length, frequency and bandwidth etc. for different types of songs in the vocal repertoire.

Using a large dataset of seasonal recordings of individual Ovenbirds and White-throated Sparrows made using autonomous and focal acoustic recordings in the field, we will analyze plasticity in vocal output, song structure, and aggressive responses to song playback and how they vary with environmental features on both diel and seasonal scales. During fall/winter, the intern will analyze existing field recordings. During the spring/summer, we will complete an additional field season with some flexibility in the questions asked according to the intern's interests.

The intern will be responsible for managing data collection, organization, analysis, and writing publications and web content. The key responsibilities of the intern will be:
1) Assist with capture and banding of birds,
2) Make behavioural observations of birds
3) Deploy and maintain sound equipment in the field,
4) Download, organize and back up recordings
5) Map territories and find nests
6) Analyze sound recordings in the lab,
7) Statistical analysis of data using mixed models
8) Writing manuscripts for publication and presenting work at academic conferences
9) Mentorship of undergraduate students in the lab.

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The intern must have recently graduated from a university with a degree in the sciences (e.g. B.Sc. Biology) with an M.Sc. preferred. Strong written and oral communication skills are required. The intern should be capable of working independently with little supervision. Experience with computer based software programs is required as well as an aptitude for presenting scientific materials to a professional as well as a general audience. The following will be considered strong assets: banding experience, experience in project management, science writing skills, teaching skills, and a knowledge of avian behaviour and ecology.

This opportunity is proudly supported by Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and is funded through the Workforce Development Program. Eligibility requirements of the program can be found here: https://nohfc.ca/en/pages/programs/people-talent-program/workforce-development-stream. To be eligible for this program, candidates must be 18 years or older amd tjos sjpi;d be the first work experience in this field, must not have participated in an NOHFC funded internship in the 2020 mandate, must be legally entitled to work in Canada, and once hired must reside in the Northern Ontario community (Sault Ste Marie) in which they are employed.

Applications will be accepted until 18 June 2021. Letters of application and resumes/Curriculum Vitae and a sample of written work can be submitted by email to: jennifer.foote@algomau.ca.

Full contact details: Dr. Jennifer Foote, Department of Biology Algoma University 1520 Queen St. E. Sault Ste. Marie Ontario P6A 2G4 Tel: (705) 255-4407; https://jennrfoote.wixsite.com/the-oven

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