Migratory behavior in the Common crane: biotelemetry and bioacoustics

Appropriate space use and scheduling of the different migration stages is crucial for annual survival and reproductive success of migrants. What are the individual decision processes that govern migratory behavior? Cranes are highly social and exhibit extended parental care; juveniles spend the fall migration and the wintering period of their first year with their parents, travelling and feeding in distinct family groups. But how do the family members recognize each other and communicate?

We use state-of-the-art, high-resolution GPS tracking and field experiments to answer these questions. The project will also include use of on-animal sound recording devices.

Position details: This position would involve tagging cranes, visiting the breeding grounds in Russia, and field experiments at the wintering and stopover site in Israel. You would have to work closely with Russian collaborators at the breeding grounds and local farmers and stakeholders in Israel. Data analysis would cover movement data, modeling, sound signal-processing and analyzing recordings. Starting time is flexible in 2019.

Qualifications: Experience traveling to remote places and working independently in the field. Preferably experience with working with wild birds. Must have an interest/previous experience in coding and modeling. Knowledge of basic Russian is an advantage but not necessary. Working language in the group and institute is English and good English skills are required.

Keywords: migration, animal tracking, GPS, bioacoustics

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