



NERC Innovation Placements 2017

Enquires: james.pearce-higgins@bto.org

[The British Trust of Ornithology \(BTO\)](#) is offering to host placements under the NERC-funded [Innovations Placements Call 2017](#).

Our collection and use of long-term monitoring data on the status of UK birds sets the standard worldwide for using citizen science data to understand the effects of environmental change on wildlife. A placement with us is an excellent opportunity to complement existing programmes of BTO research to develop scientific outputs that can be disseminated across the sector, and to our volunteers and supporters. You will gain an understanding of the operation of a large NGO research institute, and play an active part in the day-to-day activities of the organisation. Specifically, your analysis will complement existing programmes of BTO research to contribute to the understanding of the impacts of climate change upon UK biodiversity, informing BTO contributions of evidence to documents such as the UK National Adaptation Programme and the work of the IUCN Climate Change Specialist Group, and adding to outputs for our volunteers and supporters.

Researchers can expect to spend 80-100% of their time at the BTO's head office in Thetford, Norfolk but will need to be able to travel to other operating offices when required. Placements are expected to start on 1 November 2017.

Placements could involve a range of activities such as:

- Analysing and synthesising existing long-term datasets using novel techniques (e.g. identifying bird population responses to Extreme Climatic Events);
- Using the results of these and other related analyses to develop summary outputs of the impacts of climate change on bird populations in the UK, for a range of outlets from the BTO website to BTO's magazine for members;
- Considering the implications of the impacts of climate change for adaptation;
- Communicating science to, and engaging, with BTO staff and volunteers.

Researchers involved with the BTO are expected to produce a series of outputs for communicating their findings within the BTO and externally. These outputs will be determined at the outset of the placement but may include some or potentially all of the following:

- A report to the BTO on key findings and management recommendations;
- Material for the BTO website and intranet (Blogs, video);
- Scientific publications.

All applicants interested in undertaking a placement with BTO are required to register their interest by contacting Dr James Pearce-Higgins (Science Director, BTO) james.pearce-higgins@bto.org by Friday 9 June 2017. Before contacting us, please ensure that you have read and fully comply with the NERC placement eligibility requirements outlined in the main call document.

Placements proposals must be co-developed with a BTO member of staff. BTO will hold an internal meeting to decide which placement applications to support and we will contact applicants by June

16th to confirm whether or not we can support their application. The chosen applicants will then need to work up a full funding application to be submitted to NERC by 16:00 on 29 June 2017. A Letter of Support to accompany the application is required from BTO.

For more general queries about this call, please contact:

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