



Master project:

Indirect trophic interactions and breeding success of small arctic waders

Indirect interactions between different prey species modulated by shared predators (e.g. Arctic fox) are believed to have important impacts on the structure and/or dynamics of arctic tundra communities. Yet, our understanding of these types of interactions is still fragmentary. To fill this gap the *INTERACTIONS* initiative has been initiated, which is a large collaborative project addressing the effect of indirect trophic interactions on breeding success in small arctic waders (genus *Calidris*). The present master project will be part of this initiative, and focus on investigating the role of the small rodent cycle for predation pressure and breeding success of waders on Yamal Peninsula in Russia.

The student will participate in field work in Yamal in summer 2018, and collect data on the one hand through an artificial nest experiment and on the other hand by observing the breeding success in real nests. Some experience in working with birds will be an advantage. Similar data have already been collected during 2-3 years at three sites distributed in a latitudinal gradient. Together with the planned field work, this will result in a solid dataset to work on for a motivated person. Different questions regarding possible indirect competition with voles or lemmings, a latitudinal gradient and the presence of different predator assemblages can be addressed. As this project is part of a larger initiative, it will also be interesting to compare the results to results from other areas in the Arctic, such as Greenland or northern Canada.

If you are interested, you are welcome to come and talk to me

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