

Students and volunteers wanted for project in the Scottish Highlands in the Spring/Summer of 2020!



Project supervised by Fanny Olsthoorn, PhD student at ETH Zurich,
under the supervision of Prof Jaboury Ghazoul, (Ecosystem Management Group, ETH Zürich),
Prof Lucy Gilbert (University of Glasgow) and Prof Marc Metzger (University of Edinburgh)

The context

- The goal of my PhD is to understand the effect of woodland expansion on ticks and associated Lyme disease risk in Wester Ross, the Scottish Highlands

The two projects for MSc/BSc students/volunteers

- Project 1: interdisciplinary project
 - **Theme:** Relationship between tick hazard (where ticks are the most abundant) and tick exposure (where people hang out the most)
 - **Activities**
 - Ecological fieldwork: you will sample questing ticks from different types of woodlands
 - Social fieldwork: you will hang out at trailheads, cafes, pubs and public events asking people to fill out a questionnaire on their movements in the landscape
 - **Skills needed**
 - You find it fun to approach people and to chat to them
 - You like working in the field
 - You are interested in the interplay between ecological and social knowledge in terms of study design, data collection and analysis
- Project 2: bird project
 - **Theme:** What is the role of birds as tick hosts?
 - **Activities**
 - Sampling questing ticks from different types of woodland
 - Carrying out bird surveys in different types of woodland
 - **Skills needed**
 - You are an avid birder and you are familiar with Scottish birds, and their calls and songs
 - You like working in the field
 - You have strong quantitative skills and/or an interest in developing such skills

Practicalities

- Time span: May, June and potentially July 2020
- You are encouraged to develop your own research question and think about study design, analysis etc.
- I will be present most of the time to participate and help
- You need to be a tough cookie: long hours in the field will be necessary
- On the plus side, it is an absolutely stunning area, you'd learn how to carry out a bunch of different ecological/social fieldwork techniques, and experience life in the Highlands.
- A contribution will be made to your travel costs and accommodation is arranged
- Email me on fanny.olsthoorn@usys.ethz.ch if you want to apply or if you have questions