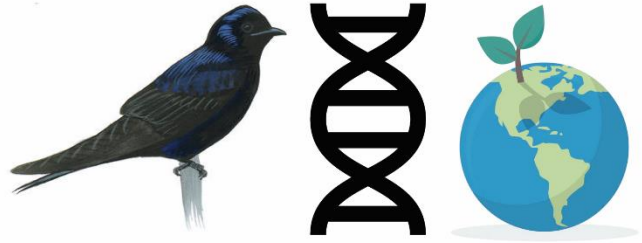**PhD Position Available**
Bird migration • Genomics • Conservation

Position: We are seeking a PhD student to help lead an NSF-funded project aimed at understanding how migratory organisms will respond to climate change.

Project goals: The timing of migration is tightly linked to resource availability. Warmer springs have caused resources on the breeding grounds to peak earlier, and it is unclear if migrants can modify their timing to match these advances. We have designed a set of projects to fill these knowledge gaps using the Purple Martin. These projects will include field work (e.g., large scale tracking of wild birds), molecular work (e.g., generation of genomic data) and data analysis (e.g., bioinformatics, predictive modelling). The results we generate will be used to assess existing protection policies for migrants and test new management plans. The successful applicant can assist in any or all of these aspects.

Starte Date: Earliest Jan 2024. The student could enroll as a PhD student immediately or start as a research assistant anywhere between Jan and May 2024, enrolling as a PhD student in Sept 2024.

Funding: This position is funded by a recent NSF grant. All research and travel will be covered, and student stipend/salary will be covered by a combination of the grant (2 semesters/year) and teaching assistantships (1 semester/year).

Supervision and Collaboration: The successful applicant will be based at Texas A&M but co-advised by Dr. Kira Delmore (Texas A&M University, delmorelab.com) and Dr. Kevin Fraser (University of Manitoba). This project is highly collaborative, including not only Dr. Delmore and Dr. Fraser but also partnerships with several conservation (e.g., the Purple Martin Conservation Association) and government agencies (e.g., the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). The latter connections derive from the fact that northern populations of Purple Martins are in decline and these agencies have a vested interest in understanding why. The varied collaborations associated with this project will ensure the successful applicant obtains broad training for their future.

Skills and Experience: Ideally previous research experience with songbird field systems and/or genetic data. Experience with data analysis and scientific writing is also an asset.

Approach and Environment: Both advisors have a supportive and positive approach to student mentorship and training. We strive to maintain an equitable, diverse, and inclusive training environment and emphasize the importance of collaboration and teamwork. The student will enroll in either the Biology (https://bio.tamu.edu) or Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (https://eeb.tamu.edu) departments at Texas A&M. These programs bring together members of many departments from a variety of scientific and international backgrounds. Texas A&M is a Tier 1 institution with a number of research facilities. College Station is a small, friendly university town located between Austin and Houston.

Application: Please send CV and a statement of interest to Dr. Kira Delmore (kdelmore@bio.tamu.edu).