

Invitation to the Seminar series in Evolutionary Biology

Tuesday, 29.04.2024

Prof. Dr. Sandra Bouwhuis

(Institute of Avian Research, Wilhelmshaven)

Terns in trouble – how climate change, mercury pollution and avian influenza threaten an indicator species

The common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) is a colonially breeding, piscivorous and migratory seabird, used as an indicator species to monitor various aspects of the status of the Wadden Sea. At one of her breeding locations, the Banter See in Wilhelmshaven (Germany), she has been the focus of a longterm study since 1992. Individual-based and longitudinal data on phenology, physiology, migratory behaviour, reproductive performance and survival, collected along an 8-generation deep pedigree, allow us to study the causes and consequences of within-individual change in life-history traits and between-individual variation in life-history strategies. In this talk, I will give an overview of current projects, which aim at understanding how anthropogenically induced stressors, such as climate change, environmental pollution and the emergence of novel pathogens affect common terns. Given that this paints a rather bleak picture, I will also show how we hope to use our research to reach the general public and inspire conservation efforts.



Host: Prof. Hanna Kokko

The colloquium usually takes place on Tuesdays at 12:15 pm until approx. 1:15 pm in the BZ 1 lecture hall (HS 00.187). Talks are given in English. Everyone interested is welcome!