

Postdoctoral position in Neuroethology/Behavioral Endocrinology

University of Lethbridge

A post-doctoral position is available to study the neural and endocrine basis of courtship displays in grouse. Male grouse produce a wide array of courtship displays, but unlike the displays of many other bird species, the brain regions and hormones responsible for mediating courtship displays in grouse are entirely unknown. Currently, the focal species of this research is the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) and its unique drumming display. More specifically, my lab is interested in getting a better understanding of what brain regions and hormones are responsible for producing the drumming display. The position involves capturing Ruffed Grouse throughout the year in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies in order to examine seasonal variation and sex differences in neuroanatomy, neurochemistry and hormone profile. Opportunities also exist for collaborations with several other labs in addition to other planned projects including bioacoustics of drumming, ecotoxicology of Ruffed Grouse and other gamebirds and neuroendocrine studies in Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*). For more information about the lab see: http://web.me.com/aniwaniuk/Bird_Brains_Lab/Welcome.html

Applicants with a record of peer-reviewed publications and a PhD in behavioural ecology, ecophysiology or related fields will be considered. Experience in trapping wild galliforms is highly desired, but not absolutely necessary. A salary will be provided for two years with a possibility of renewal for a third year, although individuals will be encouraged to apply for their own funding upon arrival. The successful candidate should be independent and self-motivated with an enthusiasm for developing new scientific ideas, training students and manuscript writing. Individuals will also be encouraged to develop their own ideas and projects complementary to the project.

To apply, send: 1) a c.v.; 2) a brief description of how you see yourself fitting into the lab's research program; 3) your research interests and goals; and 4) the contact details of at least two references to Dr. Andrew Iwaniuk (andrew.iwaniuk@uleth.ca). Review of applications will begin immediately with an anticipated start date of January 2010.