



### **Masters Thesis opportunity:**

#### **Threats and mitigation for raptor conservation**

The selected candidate will conduct a Master's thesis to learn about drivers and mitigation of mortality in red kites and short-eared owls among regions across Europe. The aim is to examine and compare not only the state of knowledge but also to reveal any gaps or mismatches. A team of species experts has developed a draft survey that build from outcomes of previous work: 1) red kite: International Red Kite Workshop held during spring 2022 along with a recently published review paper (Mattsson et al. in 2022); and 2) short-eared owls: The global owl project (<https://www.tyto.org.gr/en/global-owl-project/>). The student will finish designing an online questionnaire, administer it, analyze the results, and prepare a short manuscript or report.

The student will be jointly supervised by Drs. Brady Mattsson (BOKU) and Petra Sumasgutner (Konrad Lorenz Research Center, University of Vienna).

#### Desired knowledge and expertise

1. Familiarity with ecological literature on raptors, especially mortality, threats, and mitigation
2. Familiarity with the scientific method, including formulating and examining hypotheses
3. Good writing skills, including formulating logical arguments
4. Solid understanding of wildlife ecology and expert elicitation
5. Critical thinking
6. Good communication abilities in English, both oral and in writing
7. Generalized linear models, including use of discrete distributions for the response variable

#### To apply

Email [brady.mattsson@boku.ac.at](mailto:brady.mattsson@boku.ac.at) your application as a single PDF including:

- 1) 1-page cover letter summarizing your background and interests along with an explanation for why you are applying for this particular opportunity.
- 2) Curriculum Vitae
- 3) Research-oriented (e.g. Bachelor's thesis) writing sample in English.

The opportunity will remain open until filled.

#### Literature

Mattsson et al. 2022. Enhancing monitoring and transboundary collaboration for conserving migratory species under global change: The priority case of the red kite. *Journal of Environmental Management* 317.10.1016/j.jenvman.2022.115345