

# Masterarbeit

## Feeding strategy of Snowfinches in relation to chick age and snow cover



### **Start:**

**Now!!!** Field work in June, July with overnight stays in research hut in Salzburger Land at Großglockner Höhenstrasse

**Research question:** What are the effects of snow cover, weather and chick age on the pick rate and pick quality of male and female snowfinches with respect to food item quality searched per time, and size of snow fields and distance to next snow field?

**Methods:** Alpine Snowfinch chicks will be monitored in the research team, so data on chick age is already available and feeding sites of parents are known. During chick rearing the parents will be observed in the field when searching for food on the ground with binoculars and scopes, pickrates and food items will be protocolled and analysed with variables mentioned above..

### **Requirements:**

- **Interest to work and live in a team and to do fieldwork**
  - Interest in patient bird observation, in feeding ecology and population studies
- Knowledge in statistics

Living in extreme environments such as the high alpine habitat requires specific ecological, behavioural and physiological adaptations. Feeding the nestlings and how flexible feeding strategies are adjustable to environmental condition is an important aspect of adaptation to living in extreme environments such as high elevations.

The Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis* is a high alpine specialist with currently declining populations throughout the Alps. Understanding its requirements for survival and reproduction will be crucial in developing conservation strategies.

### **Kontakt:**

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