

Curriculum Vitae

Alexander Neu

Senckenberg Biodiversity
and Climate Research Centre (SBIK-F)
Postal Address: Senckenberganlage 25
Address: Georg-Voigt-Straße 14-16, Office 2.03
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 69 7542 1888
Email: alexander.neu@senckenberg.de

Stellenbosch University
Department of Conservation Ecology
and Entomology
JS Marais Building, Victoria Street
7602 Matieland, Stellenbosch
South Africa

Current employment:

10/2016 – Present: Ph.D. Candidate, Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (SBIK-F), Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Thesis: “Temporal dynamics of plant-animal interaction networks”

Supervisor: Matthias Schleuning

- Investigating *Protea* communities in fynbos, Western Cape, South Africa
- Testing how the spatiotemporal dynamics of *Protea*-based resources (nectar, pollen, seeds) affect the functional and interaction diversity of bird, rodent, and insect pollinators, and of insect seed predators in the cones of 21 *Protea* species.
- Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG, *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*)

Career:

12/2015 – 09/2016: Scientific Researcher, SBIK-F, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Research Unit “KiLi – Kilimanjaro eco-systems under global change: Linking biodiversity, biotic interactions and biogeochemical ecosystem processes”

- Conducted observational and experimental field studies on mutualistic interaction networks of frugivorous and nectarivorous birds with fruiting and flowering plant species
- Assisted during DFG's KiLi evaluation 06/2016
- Measured study skins at The Alexander Koenig Research Museum, Bonn
- Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG, *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*)

2015 – 2016: Freelance Consultant, Germany

- Conducted avifaunistic examinations and environmental impact studies

Education:

10/2007 – 10/2015: German Diplom Degree in Biology (Equivalent to M.Sc.), Institute of Ecology, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany

Thesis written external at SBIK-F (*distinction*): “Functional diversity of birds along land-use and elevational gradients on Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania”

- Tested whether differences in avian ecomorphological traits depict the functional roles (dietary and foraging preferences) of bird species
- Investigated changes in the functional diversity of the bird communities along an elevational gradient and with land-cover change

Research and practical work experience:

2012 – 2014: Research Assistant, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany

- Supervised B.Sc students, answered questions about taxonomy, and helped identifying animals from preserved specimens in the module *Zoologische Bestimmungstechniken*

2005 – 2013: Team Leader and Co-Developer, Constant Effort Site Eich-Gimbsheim, Germany

- Taught advanced students about songbird monitoring, bird ringing, and data management, continued to present day: www.ismega.de; including day excursions
- Optional lecture course for biology students at the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, and for bioscience students at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany

08 – 10/2011: Field Assistant, SBIK-F, Tanzania

- Assisted in the data acquisition of Hamadi Iddi Dulle's Ph.D. thesis in the framework of the research unit "KiLi – Kilimanjaro eco-systems under global change: Linking biodiversity, biotic interactions and biogeochemical ecosystem processes"
- Caught birds via mist nets, ringed and measured birds along an elevational gradient

08 – 10/2007: Field Assistant, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, South Africa

- Assisted in the field data acquisition of Adams Adamanyiwa Chaskda's Ph.D. thesis
- Caught birds via mist nets and spring traps, ringed birds with numbered and color rings, took blood samples using brachial venipuncture, created territory maps of birds

07/2006: Assistant, Ornithological Collection, Senckenberg Natural History Collections, Dresden, Germany

- Assisted in the data acquisition of Dieter Thomas Tietze's Ph.D. thesis
- Measured study skins, took feather samples

04/2006: Team Leader, Large Zoological Excursion, Corsica, France

- Taught bird ringing and field ornithology for biology students at the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany

10/2005: Assistant, Large Zoological Excursion, Cyprus

- Ringed birds and assisted field ornithology courses for biology students at the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany

Other academic activities and training:

09/2016 – Present: GRADE Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany

- Courses in: Scientific Paper Writing (2 days), The Editor's Perspective (1 day), Academic English (7 days), ArcGIS (5 days), Time- and Self-Management (3 days)

09/2004: Breeding Biology and Bird Ringing Course, Max-Planck-Institute for Ornithology, Vogelwarte Radolfzell, Germany

- Acquisition of the scientific bird ringing permit for Germany

08/2019: – Present: Treasurer, Senckenberg Young Scientists, Frankfurt, Germany

- The Young Scientists is the graduate student organization which represents all graduate students from the 6 different institutes and 3 museums that are part of Senckenberg
- Overseeing expenditures, assisting with reimbursements

Volunteer work:

2019 – Present: Host, GNOR – *Gesellschaft für Naturschutz und Ornithologie Rheinland-Pfalz* (Society for Nature Conservation and Ornithology in Rhineland-Palatinate), Mainz, Germany

- Planning and conducting monthly to bimonthly field ornithological meetings to encourage dialogue and to promote conservation projects, hosted at GNOR's regional office in Mainz

2011 – Present: Regional Coordinator and Validator, *Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten* (Federation of German Avifaunists), Germany

- Supervising several German administrative districts for the online portal www.ornitho.de
- Reviewing entered bird observation data with regard to their plausibility and correctness
- Creating and editing site names for the base map layers

2004 – Present: Regional Coordinator, International Waterbird Census, *Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten* (Federation of German Avifaunists), Germany

- Water bird counting between September and April in the Eich-Gimbsheim area, Germany

1999 – Present: Scientific Bird Ringer, Mainz, Germany

- Ringing and measuring Little Owls (*Athene noctua*), species protection program for BirdLife

1999 – 2006: Spokesman, BirdLife Germany Youth Group (NABU), Worms, Germany

- Public relations, e.g. planned and conducted workshops, excursions, and journeys
- Species protection, e.g. organized teams to guard breeding Peregrines (*Falco peregrinus*) during school vacations for the *AK Wanderfalkenschutz* in Dahn, Rhineland-Palatinate
- Biotope management, e.g. helped preserving and maintaining several conservation sites

Conference contributions:

Sep 27, 2019: 152nd German Ornithologists' Society Annual Convention, Marburg, Germany

- Presentation (English): Neu A, Cooksley H, Heinen J, Esler KJ, Pauw A, Roets F, Schurr FM & Schleuning M: “Resource availability shapes the spatiotemporal dynamics of plant-pollinator interaction networks.”

Sep 12, 2019: 49th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, Münster, Germany

- Presentation (English): Neu A, Cooksley H, Heinen J, Esler KJ, Pauw A, Roets F, Schurr FM & Schleuning M: “Resource availability shapes the spatiotemporal dynamics of plant-pollinator interaction networks.”

Aug 02, 2018: 40th Fynbos Forum, Rawsonville, South Africa

- Presentation (English): Neu A, Cooksley H, Esler KJ, Pauw A, Roets F, Schurr FM & Schleuning M: “Spatiotemporal dynamics of mutualistic and antagonistic plant-animal interaction networks.”

Oct 02, 2016: 149th German Ornithologists' Society Annual Convention, Stralsund, Germany

- Presentation (English): Neu A, Ferger SW, Töpfer T, Böhning-Gaese K & Schleuning M: “Functional diversity and identity of bird communities along elevational and human-induced vegetation gradients on Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.”

Mar 11, 2006: *Gesamtdeutsche Beringertagung* (Conference of the Three Ornithological Ringing Stations in Germany), Bad Blankenburg, Germany

- Presentation (German): Tietze DT, Weiß J, Blume C, Ellrich H & Neu A: “*Integriertes Singvogel-Monitoring am Eich-Gimbsheimer Altrhein (ISMEGA)*.”

Awards:

10/2016: 149th German Ornithologists' Society Annual Convention, Stralsund, Germany

- First Prize: Best presentation of young researchers

Memberships:

- DO-G, *Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft e.V.* (German Ornithologists' Society)
- GNOR, *Gesellschaft für Naturschutz und Ornithologie Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.* (Society for Nature Conservation and Ornithology in Rhineland-Palatinate)
- GRADE, Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt
- NABU, *Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V.* (BirdLife Germany)

Skills:

- Languages German (native speaker)
 English (fluent in writing and speaking)
 Kiswahili (basic communication skills)
- Software Adobe (Photoshop, Illustrator)
 Microsoft Office Products (Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point, Access)
 R Statistical Programming Language
 ArcGIS

Publications:

Tietze DT, Neu A, Ellrich H & Martens J (2007): *Zwei Jahre Integriertes Singvogelmonitoring am Eich-Gimbsheimer Altrhein*. Fauna und Flora in Rheinland-Pfalz 11, 151-174.