

Supervision :

Surname: **Alexandre** First name: **Roulin**

e-mail : **Alexandre.Roulin@unil.ch** Funding for student:
 yes to be discussed no

Title of the research project :

Interspecific competition between barn owls and other predators: a study at the worldwide scale

Key words :

Barn owl, raptors, owls, predation, trophic niche

Brief description :

The barn owl is distributed worldwide and hence occurs in many different habitats. Although this owl feeds mainly upon small mammals, it shows pronounced flexibility in its diet. In order to understand why the barn owl is cosmopolitan, detailed studies on predator-prey interactions are necessary. In particular, it is important to determine under which ecological conditions, the barn owl is in competition with other predators. To this end, I propose to identify the ecologic and climatic factors that are associated with a high vs. low competition with other predators. To this end the student will work on already published studies but also in the field with wild barn owls.

Literature (2 references):

Taylor, I. R. 1994. Barn owls: predator-prey relationships and conservation. Cambridge University Press.

Roulin, A. & Christe, P. 2013. Geographic and temporal variation in the consumption of bats by European barn owls. Bird Study 60, 561-569.

Technical aspects of the research project:

Statistics, rigour, writing a scientific report

Essential skills and abilities desired:

Statistics, rigour, ability to work in the field with a team

Return to Professor Frank Cézilly (frank.cezilly@u-bourgogne.fr)