

Date: Tuesday 31 October, 2017
Time: 17:10 – 19:00
Room: Seminar Room

Family planning in great tits (*Parus major*) in response to temperature extremes: a long-term study

Presenting author: **Michał Gładalski**

Authors: **Michał Gładalski¹, Adam Kaliński¹, Mirosława Bańbura², Marcin Markowski¹, Joanna Skwarska¹, Jarosław Wawrzyniak¹, Piotr Zieliński³ & Jerzy Bańbura¹**

Affiliations: ¹Department of Experimental Zoology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland

²Museum of Natural History, University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland

³Department of Ecology and Vertebrate Zoology, University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland

Temperature variation affects various life stages of organisms. It has been suggested that climate change not only means higher temperatures but also more unpredictable weather. Temperature has a major influence on the optimal laying-incubation-hatching dates of insectivorous passerines, because it poses energetic constraints and affects the timing of food abundance. We have been studying breeding characteristics of great tits in two areas around the city of Łódź since 2002. In 2016 and 2017, there were cold spells during the period of egg production, which caused some females to produce laying gaps and/or to start to incubate even several days after producing a complete clutch. Since phenotypic plasticity plays a major role in adjusting to unpredictable weather conditions in spring, examining limits of plasticity may be an important goal for future research.