

# Summer job and Master's project at Alert in the High-Arctic in 2025



We are looking for a student to join our 2025 field team at Alert, Nunavut, with the possibility of pursuing a master's degree on the same topic. The student will participate in an **ecophysiology study on the physiological preparation and fall migration in snow buntings**. Our research showed that these birds migrate under winter conditions in the spring, and must maintain a level of cold endurance similar to the peak of winter, sometimes even during breeding. However, physiological preparation for the fall migration has never been documented. Moreover, the migration route and wintering site of the High Arctic population are unknown. This project has two objectives: (1) to measure the reproductive performance of breeding pairs and determine their migration route using tracking devices (geolocators) deployed on adults before they fledge nestlings (2) to examine physiological transformations and metabolic performance in adults and juveniles during the weeks preceding migration (August-September). The student will be part of a team of 4-6 people and will participate in several protocols involving other aspects of Arctic wildlife ecology (arthropod abundance, herbivore and shorebird monitoring, field observations). This project involves field and laboratory work at Alert, and will be carried out under the supervision of François Vézina, professor at Université du Québec à Rimouski.



The requirements are as follow:

- 1) To be enrolled **full time in a biology undergraduate degree at the winter semester and be in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of BSc** (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in Québec)
- 2) Aptitudes for team work and life in isolated conditions with other people
- 3) To be versatile and able to adapt to variable and changing schedules according to needs and daily constraints
- 4) Experience with bird capture and handling is an asset
- 5) To be permanent resident of Canada

Interested candidates must contact and send:

- 1) **CV**
- 2) **Cover letter** detailing field experience and interests in graduate studies in ecophysiology
- 3) **Copy of the most recent academic transcript**
- 4) **Name and contact information of three references**

**DEADLINE : 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024**

Please send your documents **by email** to :  
**François Vézina** (françois\_vezina@uqar.ca)