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Propositions accompanying the PhD thesis

Reassessment of trophic mismatches in Arctic shorebirds

Mikhail K. Zhemchuzhnikov

- I. “The world changes, and all that once was strong now proves unsure.” (John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, “The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers” 1954)
- II. The asynchrony between birds and their food source in the Arctic is increasing, yet the consequences of this change for the birds are relatively unknown. (Chapter 2)
- III. Different metrics for arthropod abundance have marked impacts on biological inferences about phenological mismatches. (Chapter 3)
- IV. There are times to stretch broad and times to dive deep: trophic mismatches cannot be studied without detailed knowledge on the diet of the mismatched species. (Chapter 4)
- V. The elevational distribution of shorebird species shapes their interactions with both prey and predators. (Chapter 5)
- VI. “Collecting excrements is probably the peak point in the career of a field ecologist.” (Jannik Hansen)
- VII. As they are shifting their breeding habitat northwards and/or upwards, some shorebird species breeding in Arctic are approaching their geographical limits. (Chapter 6)
- VIII. “We’re so self-important, so self-important. Everybody’s gonna save something now: save the trees, save the bees, save the whales, save those snails! And the greatest arrogance of all: save the planet! ... We don’t even know how to take care of ourselves yet! We haven’t learned how to care for one another and we’re gonna save the ... planet?! ... The planet is fine! Compared to the people, the planet is doing great: been here four and a half billion years! ... The planet will be here, we’ll be long gone; just another failed mutation; just another closed-end biological mistake.” (George Carlin: Jamming In New York 1992)
- IX. “We know that things change, we’ve been told since childhood that things change, we’ve witnessed things change ourselves many a time, and yet we’re still utterly incapable of noticing the moment that change comes — or we search for change in all the wrong places.” (Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, “Roadside Picnic” 1972)
- X. “If you hide your ignorance, no one will hit you and you’ll never learn.” (Ray Bradbury, “Fahrenheit 451” 1953)
- XI. It is remarkable how the combination of multiple methodological tools advances our understanding of the time-space dynamics of the populations. (Chapter 7)