



EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



CSC-Tübingen PhD Scholarship Program

2026/2027 application round: prospective PhD positions at the University of Tübingen

Faculty:	Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät
Institute / Section / Subject:	Department of Biology / Didactics / Teaching / Education Sciences
Supervising Professor(s):	Prof. Dr. Christoph Randler
About the Supervisor(s):	We work at the intersection between biology and psychology, often with a focus on health and well-being. I like cooperation across disciplines and boundaries. We use many methods, such as questionnaires, hormone assays, actigraphy, field and lab experiments, and others.
Specification/Project title:	
Topic Description:	This study investigates how sound recognition apps reshape birdwatchers' (and non-birding peoples') relationship with natural soundscapes, focusing on whether app-based recording shifts attention away from immersive listening toward task-oriented behavior. The framework spans three dimensions: technology use (identification mode, reliance level), experience (perceived soundscape richness, restorative quality, attentional engagement), and outcomes (nature connectedness, bird knowledge, conservation behavior). The study also examines whether birding motivation moderates technology use patterns, and whether heavy app reliance erodes users' ear-based species identification skills over time. The study uses field experiments with classical BACI designs and variations in interventions/treatments. Outcome variables a physiological measures such as cortisol, heart raten and skin conductance/electrodermal activity).
Intended Degree:	<i>Dr. rer. nat., Dr. phil.</i>
Type of the PhD Study:	both possible
Required Degrees and Qualifications:	<i>Master of Science in Biology/Ecology or related topics; Master of Education; MSc Psychology also possible</i>
Language Requirements:	<i>TOEFL iBT 95, IELTS 6.5</i>
Notes:	Interest in birds and bird related research would be fine, but not needed; competencies in experimental field settings would be appreciated.

From hearing to recording:
the role of sound recognition apps in reshaping birdwatchers' relationship with natural soundscapes

