

Bachelor/Master Thesis – Nesting without worrying: song bird conservation measures in Park Sanssouci



In this project, we aim to monitor local songbirds breeding in the nest boxes of Park Sanssouci, and to evaluate the efficacy of newly-established protective systems against nest predation by raccoons. Invasive alien species (IAS) are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, even in urban and residential areas. Preliminary observations suggest that the little occupation of nest boxes in Park Sanssouci (Potsdam) is to be ascribed to high rates of raccoon predation on eggs and nestlings. We aim to test several protective systems which should render nest boxes inaccessible for predators, while maintaining the attractiveness for the various bird species that nest in the Park.

The project involves regular checks to the modified and control (unmodified) nest-boxes, behavioural observations, maintenance of the protective system, data collection and analysis. The timing of the project is determined by the birds breeding season: preparations would start in February, field work would continue until ca. June 2022.

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