

Curriculum Vitae

Sylvie Paule VANDENABEELE

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DOB: 03/01/1985, Bilingual French/English



Profile

I am a researcher in animal science. My work focuses on both fundamental and applied aspects of the biology of animals and particularly birds including their behaviour, physiology, ecology as well as welfare and conservation using remote-sensing technology. More specifically, my goal is to develop suitable methods for capturing insights about the life of animals in their environment using the latest technology (e.g. GPSs, cameras...) and appropriate attachment and positioning of the equipment. These methods have applications in many areas from blue-skies research through to scientific communication with the production of films and documentaries.

Higher education

- 2010-2013 **PhD Biology**, Swansea University (Wales), supervised by Prof. Rory Wilson.
Thesis: Avian rucksacks for science: in search for minimal-impact tagging procedures for birds.
- 2008-2009 **Masters in Management and Protection of Biodiversity** (upper 2nd)
University of Montpellier (France)
- 2007-2008 **Masters in Ecophysiology and Ethology**, University of Strasbourg (France)
- 2006-2007 **Masters in Ethology and Evolution** (upper 2nd), University of Rennes (France)
- 2002-2006 **Bachelor's Degree** in Molecular Biology (1st in my class) University of Marseille (France)
- 1999-2002 **French high school diploma** in Science (lower 2nd class honours)
High School of Schoelcher, Martinique (Overseas French Department)

Employment

Post-doctoral Researcher Mar 2013 –November 2014

Funded by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF Ltd, London UK). Last steps of the development of a minimal-impact tracking systems for long-term studies on birds.

Student demonstrator and ambassador Jan 2010 – Mar 2013, Swansea University

Assisting first-year students during practical modules and participating in open days and other promoting events at university.

Assistant at the Zoological Museum, 2007, Strasbourg, France

Tour guide, organisation and curator of temporary exhibitions.

Relevant field/lab experience

- Over-winter monitoring of European shags (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) using GPS/GSM devices attached with new harnesses at the Isle of May in collaboration with CEH (Scotland).
- First trials in the wild of a new attachment system for long-term monitoring of birds conducted on wild northern gannets at Rouzic Island (Britanny, France) in collaboration with the CNRS of Montpellier (CEFE) and the Réserve Naturelle des sept îles
- Deployment of data-loggers to study the movements of albatrosses and petrels on Marion Island (South Africa) in the sub-Antarctic (2012; 1 month)
- Assessment of the effect of tags on the flying and plunging behaviour of northern gannets on Grassholm Island (Wales, UK) in collaboration with Dr Steve Votier (Exeter University) and RSPB (2011-2012; summer period)
- Night survey including track identification and microchip (PIT) tagging of loggerhead turtles as a research assistant for the National Marine Park of Zakynthos (Greece), while retrieving loggers for Swansea University (2010; 1 month)

- Trials of a new attachment system for long-term deployments of tags on captive birds at the RSPCA Wildlife Centre (Hastings, UK), at the International Centre for Birds of Prey (Gloucester, UK) and at the Max Plank Institute (Radolfzell, Germany) (2009 to present)
- Monitoring populations of an endangered snake species: the Orsini's viper as a volunteer for the Conservatory of Natural Spaces of Provence (Alps, France) (2008; 2 months)

Presentation and outreach

Media events

- Thalassa program (France 2 production) for a theme series on the islands of Brittany, June 2013, broadcasted last January on France 2 channel.
- Interview for the 'GREAT campaign', film organised by the British council to promote the UK as a study destination to international students, Nov 2012.
- BBC Autumnwatch program on the gannet colony on Grassholm, Oct 2011
- Rolex Awards video production on the collaborative project with the International Centre for Birds of Prey on the effects of tags on the flying behaviour of birds (see the Rolex website).
- Talks to members of the public, various locations across France.

Conference talks and posters

- **Compassionate Conservation Symposium**, 2010, University of Oxford, UK
Poster entitled "Attachment of technology to birds over longer periods; should we use a soft touch?"
- **4th International Science Symposium on Bio-logging**, 2011, Hobart, Tasmania
Oral presentation entitled "When 3% may not be 3%; device-equipped seabirds experience variable flight constraints."
- **UFAW International Animal Welfare Symposium**, 2011, Portsmouth, UK
Oral presentation entitled "Minimal impact tags for tracking rehabilitated seabirds"
- **11th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference**, 2012, New Orleans, US
Oral presentation entitled "What happens to oiled seabirds after rehabilitation? Best practise for finding out"
- **UvA-BiTS Symposium**, 2013, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Talk at a seminar about "Animal tracking methods and technology"
- **BTO seminar**, February 2014, Thetford, UK
Talk about "The risks of tracking birds with transmitters"
- **5th International Science Symposium on Bio-logging**, 2014, Strasbourg, France
Poster entitled "Balancing under the high wire; a study into transmitter antenna effects on a waterbird species, the Western Grebe."

Awards

- **International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF Ltd)**, 2013-2014. R&D award to support the completion of a minimal-impact tracking system to assess the survival rate of rehabilitated oiled seabirds (£28,495)
- **Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN)**, 2010- 2012. Competitive Grants Program awarded for the development of minimal impact tags for tracking rehabilitated oiled seabirds (\$23,012 and \$21,753 respectively in 2010 and 2012)
- **RSPCA**, 2010-2012. Grant for the development of minimal-impact tracking system for tracking rehabilitated oiled seabirds (£30,000 over 3 years)

Additional qualifications and training

- Languages; French (mother tongue), English (advanced), Spanish (moderate)
- Computer skills; Microsoft Office, data-analysis and statistical software ORIGIN, Multitrace, SPSS
- Referee for journals including PloS ONE, Behaviour, Marine Biology and Ibis
- UK Home office licence A(SP)A trained
- Full, clean driving licence