

# Simone Messina *Curriculum vitae*

**Date of birth:** 01/01/1987

**Place of birth:** Rome

**Nationality:** Italian

**Sex:** Male

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## **Education and Activities**

**25<sup>th</sup> of March 2014:** Master degree in Eco-biology at the University of Rome “La Sapienza”. Thesis title: “Distribution and trophic ecology of the otter *Lutra lutra* in Albania”. Final result: 110/110 cum laude (highest honors).

**01/04/2014 – 31/03/2015:** I have collaborated with the Civil National Service at the protected area Riserva Naturale Monti Navegna e Cervia (RI), Rieti (Italy). I was involved in the activity of monitoring of the species *Canis lupus* (photo trapping, wolf howling); *Aquila chrysaetos* (scoring at nest); *Bombina pachypus* (ventral pattern and morphometric measurements).

**01/10/2015 – 31/09/2016:** I worked in the “Behavioral Ecology and Ecophysiology Group” at the Department of Biology, University of Antwerp. I conducted an experimental study on the effect of oxidative stress on the song behavior of male

starlings. I also participate to field work for a project on stress and herpes infections in the frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) in French Guiana.

**Ongoing:** the first of October 2016 I started my Phd in the “Behavioral Ecology and Ecophysiology Group” at the Department of Biology, University of Antwerp. The title of my project is “Physiological stress as a mechanism underlying the effects of forest logging on tropical birds: an experimental approach”.

## **Personal Interest**

I am mostly interested in studying the physiological mechanism underlying the behavioral response of animals. In particular, I am fascinated by the study of oxidative stress because it can provide relevant information to better understand the life-history evolution, the animal communication, and response of individuals and populations to environmental changes and other stressors.

## **Lab Skills**

Techniques to measure oxidative damage compounds and antioxidant capacity in plasma: the **Cayman’s TBARS** assay to measure lipid peroxidation, the **d-ROMs** assay to assess hydroperoxides, the **Protein Carbonyl Colorimetric** assay to determine protein carbonyls and the **OXY-adsorbent** assay to measure the non-enzymatic antioxidant capacity.

## **Grants**

**01/10/2015 – 31/10/2016:** Recipient of the “Borsa di Perfezionamento all’Estero” released by the University of Rome “La Sapienza”.

**01/10/2016 – ongoing:** Recipient of the PhD Fellowship released by FWO (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Flanders).

## **Publications**

Balestrieri A., Messina S., Pella F., Prigioni C., Saino N., Fasola M., 2015. Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra* in developing countries: a resurvey of Albania 22 years after the fall of communism. *Oryx*, doi:10.1017/S0030605314000921 (5-year IF=2.1; peer-reviewed journal)