



## **Sagebrush-Obligate Bird Technicians**

*University of Waterloo – Natural Gas Reclamation and Sagebrush Birds, Wyoming, USA.*

### **Job Description**

The University of Waterloo's Natural Gas Reclamation in the Sagebrush-Steppe Project is seeking avian research technicians to assist with avian point counts, monitoring greater sage-grouse fitted with GPS-VHF backpack trackers, nest productivity monitoring (songbirds and sage-grouse), and vegetation sampling. The research will be conducted in large-scale natural gas reclamation areas in sagebrush habitat in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming. The objective of this component of the research is to better understand the response of sagebrush obligate birds to landscape scale habitat reclamation. The overall goal of the project is to identify the chain of reclamation events necessary for greater sage-grouse recovery and recovery of sagebrush songbirds in areas being reclaimed.

Lodging will be provided in Buffalo or Sheridan, Wyoming. The work term for most crew members will be from approx. 01 May to 31 August, 2018 (exact start and end dates are somewhat flexible). We will need one technician to start 01 April (work term 01 April to 31 August) to help with capturing and marking sage-grouse. If you are available and interested in assisting with capturing (1 April start), please indicate so when applying.

### **Primary Duties**

- Conducting avian point-count surveys
- Songbird nest searching and nest productivity monitoring
- Greater sage-grouse monitoring and tracking (telemetry)
- Microhabitat vegetation sampling
- Data entry and data proofing
- Operating 4x4 vehicles
- Operating ATV's



Work will require long hours in the field (> 40 hour weeks) in adverse weather conditions, working alone and hiking long distances. Technicians must be able to work well with others, live side-by-side with coworkers and have good communication skills.

## Required Qualifications

- Completion or enrollment in, a college/university program in wildlife ecology/management, biology, zoology, or other natural resource related fields
- Have the ability to legibly record field data and enter data into a computer (Excel, Word, etc.)
- Understand the use of GPS equipment and basic navigation with a compass
- Have experience conducting field work
- Be willing to work long days (> 8 hours) in the field and often 6 day weeks
- Valid full driver's license
- First Aid and CPR training

## Preferred Qualifications (training is provided)

- Passerine nest searching experience
- Ability to identify birds by visual and auditory clues
- Experience tracking wildlife using telemetry



## Compensation

Technicians will be paid \$2400 CAD (or \$2000 USD) per month and housing will be provided. Technicians will be responsible for their own living expenses (e.g., food).

## How to apply

If you are interested in joining the project and spending the summer near the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming, please email a cover letter, resume, and at least two professional references to [ckirol@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ckirol@uwaterloo.ca). Applications will be taken until 15 March 2018, or until the positions are filled. We will start interviewing for the sage-grouse capture technician 15 Feb. 2018. Further questions can be directed to [ckirol@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ckirol@uwaterloo.ca), Natasha Barlow (passerine project lead; [nlbarlow@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:nlbarlow@uwaterloo.ca)), or Dr. Brad Fedy (principle investigator; <http://fedylab.uwaterloo.ca/>).

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