



ECOSTUDIES INSTITUTE

A nonprofit scientific organization

900 Jefferson St. SE

P.O. Box 1614, Olympia, WA 98501

305-213-8829

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Avian Field Technician
Position: Seasonal. Full Time; Non-Exempt
Period: Est. April 12, 2021 thru August 13, 2021
Reports to: Director of Avian Conservation
Compensation: \$16.50-18.00 Hourly - DOE

Ecostudies Institute was established in 2001 as a 501(c)(3) scientific non-profit organization. For nearly two decades Ecostudies built a strong foundation of conservation work, primarily focused on bird conservation in Florida and the Pacific Northwest.

In 2020, Ecostudies broadened its conservation capacity and vision when a group of individuals transitioned their programs from another organization to reside and grow at Ecostudies. Based in Olympia, Washington, we now focus our efforts solely in the Pacific Northwest, where we focus on our unique brand of cooperative conservation. Our senior staff has over 60 years of experience in the Pacific Northwest, a region we are continuously fascinated and inspired by, but also faces significant conservation challenges.

Ecostudies focuses on conservation of one of the rarest ecosystems in the United States, the prairie and oak woodlands of Cascadia, especially those lands and habitats within the South Sound Region. In that Region, the Program aims to protect, restore habitats, and support recovery of rare species that are federally listed or candidates for federal listing.

Overview Summary:

Ecostudies Institute is hiring 3-4 avian field technician positions to work on a team conducting a variety of bird monitoring and conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest. Projects may include: 1) monitoring nests and adults of the federally threatened streaked horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*); 2) demographic monitoring of imperiled birds; 3) breeding season bird community monitoring in prairie and oak woodlands. Field work will primarily be conducted at prairie training sites and active airfields on Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and on deposition islands in the lower Columbia River (LCR). Technician will clearly collect data, meticulously manage it, and be detail oriented in observation and documentation. The technician should be able to identify local grassland and oak bird species by sight and ear, or quickly learn. The technician will work closely with supervisor to communicate information about status and location of lark nests to site managers. Previous experience working with birds is preferred, but not required.

The Avian Field Technician is a full-time, seasonal, non-exempt position supervised by the Director of Avian Conservation. Positions run from 12 April to 13 August 2021. Dates may be adjusted depending on funding. Pay rate is \$16.50-18.00/hr DOE, plus benefits.

Conserving imperiled species and their habitats

Successful applicants should have a keen interest in avian research and conservation, demonstrate excellent communication skills, be able to work independently and in a team setting, and be comfortable working on an active military base. This position entails a sound work ethic, interpersonal skills, and positive attitude during long field days. Development of positive and effective relationships with JBLM and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partners is critical. The Technician must also be able to work independently, completing substantial tasks without direct supervision or through the supervision of conservation partners, including federal and state agency personnel, such as the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and JBLM.

The Technician is expected to be an integral member of Ecostudies Institute. The Technician will need to effectively communicate with partners, volunteers and the public concerning specific work and the work of the Ecostudies Institute.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS/MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ◇ Nest monitoring and territory mapping of the streaked horned lark following detailed protocols.
- ◇ Accurately re-sight color-banded birds in a variety of habitats and weather conditions.
- ◇ Conduct bird surveys including lark standardized surveys, point counts, and line transects.
- ◇ Meticulously maintain a field notebook including detailed observations and activity log for each day.
- ◇ Enter data on a daily basis into appropriate databases such as Access, Google Drive, etc.
- ◇ Track birds with binoculars and spotting scope, document and communicate their status and locations, and be sensitive to ground nests underfoot.
- ◇ Conduct quantitative and qualitative monitoring of grassland birds under the guidance of Avian Monitoring Team members and partner's scientists.
- ◇ Operate equipment such as binoculars, spotting scope, GPS, two-way radios, and apps on mobile device such as Survey123.
- ◇ Conduct routine maintenance of all equipment used in implementing duties.
- ◇ Maintain state-of-the-art knowledge of the avian monitoring techniques utilized by the team. Communicate the correct and safe implementation of these techniques to other crewmembers, partners and volunteers.
- ◇ Understand and be able to communicate clearly the value and benefit of bird, and specifically lark, conservation and recovery to the military mission.
- ◇ Work collaboratively with resource agencies, consultants, and other conservation organizations.
- ◇ Fulfill other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

- ◇ BA/BS/AS/Technical or vocational degree in science-related field or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- ◇ Ability to identify south Puget Sound grassland birds by sight and sound.
- ◇ At least one year of experience with avian survey techniques including census, abundance and nest monitoring methods.
- ◇ Experience working with or knowledge of natural systems; ability to recognize plant and animal species as required to complete preserve management activities. Knowledge of ecological land management principles.
- ◇ Ability to follow provided protocols and instructions from colleagues.
- ◇ Ability to manage time and diverse activities under deadlines while delivering quality results.
- ◇ Ability to perform physical work, sometimes under adverse conditions or in inclement weather.
- ◇ Working knowledge of common software applications (e.g.; Word, Excel, Web browsers) and familiarity with ArcMap GIS and other database systems such as Access are preferred.
- ◇ Wildlife handling experience.
- ◇ Must have and maintain a valid Washington driver's license and safe driving record.
- ◇ Must have access to a working vehicle that can be used to drive to and from work locations every day.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

- ◇ Regularly works outdoors in natural areas as well as on active military installation training grounds and airfields
- ◇ Frequently works alone with minimal supervision.
- ◇ Regularly walks long distances of up to 5 miles per day on uneven ground.
- ◇ Field work is performed in all weather conditions and often in rough terrain.
- ◇ Occasionally works in conditions involving pesticides or prescribed fires.
- ◇ Occasionally lifts, positions, or otherwise moves objects weighing up to 50 pounds.
- ◇ Responsible for some evening and weekends including travel.

TO APPLY:

Qualified applicants must provide a detailed letter of interest, current résumé or curriculum vitae, and three professional references (names, affiliations, and contact information only). Applications will be evaluated as they are received, but for fullest consideration please apply no later than February 28th, 2021.

Email these materials to:

jtreadwell@ecoinst.org

If email is not possible, the application can be mailed to:

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