

Field Technicians Needed for Field Research on Birds in BC

Drs. Andrea Norris and Elizabeth Gow of the Wildlife Research Division of Environment and Climate Change Canada are seeking 2-4 field technicians to assist on a tree cavity-nesting study in interior Cariboo and east Chilcotin region of British Columbia from ~1 May 2023 through 15 July 2023 (with the possibility of extension depending on funding).

We firmly believe that producing strong science requires a team dedicated to dismantling systems of exclusion. We are a supportive research group that fosters an equitable and inclusive environment for all members to have equal opportunities to grow, develop, and succeed. We strongly encourage applications from members of historically excluded groups.

Description & duties: The project is part of a long-term study investigating breeding ecology and habitat use of cavity-nesting species, near Williams Lake, BC. You will work in a team with 1-3 other technicians or students to conduct avian point counts, deploy and maintain ARUs and potentially trail cameras, use a cavity monitoring system to document all species nesting in tree cavities, at ~24 sites, conduct vegetation surveys (identifying tree species, and measuring vegetation characteristics, enter data and conduct general data management, prepare data sheets and field schedules, and perform equipment maintenance.

Field conditions: Nest finding/monitoring requires early morning hiking off-trail through dry interior forests for ~10km per day, while carrying field equipment (up to 30 lbs). Accommodations (camping), travel (between Vancouver and the study site and camp), training, and basic equipment will be provided in addition to your salary. Accommodations provided starting 13 May will be at a base-camp with electricity and running water, but some days may be spent at another campsite without electricity or running water. Sites and field accommodations do NOT have internet or cell phone access, but for safety emergency satellite communications will be provided. You will be required to sleep in a tent for the duration of the field study. From ~1 May to 12 May technicians may be responsible for their own accommodations in Metro Vancouver for field preparations and safety training.

Required Qualifications:

- Valid driver's license
- Excellent communication skills
- A strong interest in field ecology
- Willingness to learn bird identification by sound
- Willingness to grow and learn

Beneficial Skills and Assets:

- Some formal training and/or experience in avian field biology
- Ability to identify BC birds by sight and sound
- Proficient in MS Excel

Compensation: Equivalent to \$17-\$27/hour depending on experience and funding. Current undergraduate or graduate students are preferred. Must be legally eligible to work in Canada, and pass an ECCC security screening. Review of applications will begin **22 Feb 2023**, but this job posting will remain open until filled.

For any questions and/or to apply for this job:

Submit a **cover letter** that includes a brief personal statement describing your accomplishments, challenges, and background, CV, and the names and contact information of 2 references, using the subject header "cavity-nester field job" to:

Dr. Andrea Norris (andrea.norris[AT]ec.gc.ca) and Dr. Elizabeth Gow (Elizabeth.gow2[AT]ec.gc.ca). Please feel free to contact for any inquires prior to applying.

