

Field Technician – Researching the habitat requirements of grassland songbird species at risk



Job Description

Currently seeking field technicians with Environment Canada and the University of Regina to aid in studying the habitat requirements of grassland songbirds on native rangelands. This project will focus on prairie species at risk, which include Sprague's pipit, chestnut-collared longspur, McCown's longspur, Baird's sparrow, and bobolink. The position is field-related and will occur from May to mid August.

During fieldwork, technicians will be responsible for inventorying grassland songbird abundance using point count surveys. At each survey location, technicians will record measurements of habitat features, such as vegetation height, litter depth, percent cover, vegetation density, and shrub density. Personnel must be capable of working alone with minimal supervision and under field conditions (i.e., early mornings, long days, adverse weather conditions) for extended periods. Study sites are located on private and community pastures. Therefore, technicians must have strong interpersonal and communication skills when interacting with managers and landowners. Suitable candidates must also possess a valid driver's licence and be comfortable driving a truck on unmaintained roads and trails.

Accommodations and a daily per diem to help cover costs of meals will be provided during fieldwork. Field Technicians will receive a monthly salary of approximately \$2,000, but will also depend on experience and type of role given.

Qualifications:

- A strong interest in species at risk, bird biology, and prairie ecosystems
- Ability to identify bird species by sight and sound
- Comfortable with working in sparsely populated areas
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills

- Attention to detail and ability to follow data collection protocols

Preference will be given to candidates with the following experience:

- Previous experience conducting bird surveys
- Involved in native prairie or rangeland-related work
- A valid driver's license

Hours per week: 35 plus overtime

Start date: May 15, 2017

End date: August 15, 2017

Monthly Salary: \$2,000

If interested please contact Phil Rose at rose200p@uregina.ca for more details.