

**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** AVIAN FIELD TECHNICIAN – Northern Great Plains (9 Positions)

**FLSA Status**: FULL TIME/SALARIED/EXEMPT

**Reports to:** Outreach Biologist

**Direct Reports:** None

**Location**: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska

**Salary:** $1154 - $1338, biweekly, depending on experience. In addition to salary, reimbursement for project-related travel, some recreational travel, and up to $200 per 2-week pay period in camping and lodging reimbursements will be provided.

**Duration:** 5/13/2018 – 7/15/2018 (Approximate)

**Benefits:** None

**Start Date** 5/13/2018

**About the Organization:**

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies conserves birds and their habitats through an integrated approach of science, education and stewardship. Our work extends from the Rockies to the Great Plains, Mexico and beyond. Our mission is advanced through sound science, achieved through empowering people, realized through stewardship and sustained through cross-border collaborations. We monitor and identify population trends, research habitat needs, engage landowners and managers in wildlife and habitat stewardship, and inspire audiences of all ages to be better stewards of the land. Together, we are improving native bird populations, the land, and the lives of people. Learn more about our work and programs at our website: [www.birdconservancy.org](http://www.birdconservancy.org)

**Job Duties and Responsibilities:**

**OVERVIEW**

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is seeking experienced field biologists to conduct point counts in the Northern Great Plains. The crew will continue our ongoing survey effort in Nebraska, the Black Hills of South Dakota, and southwestern North Dakota. For additional information about the program, please visit <http://www.birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/science/monitoring/imbcr-program/>.

The position will begin on or around May 14th and continue through early July with the possibility for employment entering and proofing data after the season. Surveys will be in a variety of habitats including short- and mixed-grass prairie, coniferous forests, sandhills and riparian systems with the opportunity to observe a variety of species as you move across the expansive study area, including Upland Sandpiper, Prairie Falcon, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Burrowing Owl, Greater Prairie-Chicken and Marbled Godwit.

Technicians will attend a mandatory paid training prior to beginning field work. Upon successful completion of training, technicians will work independently conducting bird surveys. The standard work schedule will be 10 days on and 4 days off. Technicians must be able to identify all bird species found across the Northern Great Plains by sight and sound upon completion of training. Applicants should expect to hike long distances off-trail in challenging conditions with occasionally steep and rugged terrain. Primitive camping, often without phone service or facilities will be required. Some overnight backcountry travel may be necessary. Completion of job duties may periodically require long days in the field. These positions represent an excellent opportunity to explore some of the most wild and scenic places in the lower 48 states while advancing avian conservation at regional scales. Please visit the IMBCR [webpage](https://birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/science/monitoring/imbcr-program/) for additional information or check out this [blog post](https://birdconservancy.org/off-the-beaten-track/) to hear about the position from a previous technician.

**REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

Applicants should be enthusiastic, physically fit, have excellent hearing, enjoy travel, and be willing to work long hours in the field. The successful applicant will need to be comfortable hiking and surveying in areas with potentially hazardous wildlife including rattlesnakes, bison, and mountain lions. The ability to identify avian species that breed in the Northern Great Plains (North and South Dakota, Nebraska) by sight and sound is required. A valid driver's license, proof of auto insurance, binoculars, camping gear, basic computer skills, a strong work ethic, and enthusiasm for conservation and conducting fieldwork are also necessary. Applicants should enjoy working independently and be a self-starter. Desired qualifications include prior experience conducting point count surveys, camping, long distance hiking, and navigating in the backcountry. Applicants with personal 4WD vehicles are encouraged to apply; however, Bird Conservancy will rent vehicles for qualified applicants that do not possess 4WD vehicles and are at least 21 years old.

**REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

* Ability to identify avian species which breed in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska
* Valid driver’s license, proof of insurance, and experience driving 4WD vehicles is required
* Prior experience conducting avian point counts is highly desired
* Experience in backcountry travel and navigation is highly desired

**To Apply:**

To apply, please email a cover letter that describes your bird identification knowledge/ability/experience in detail, a resume, and three references as a single document to Matt Smith at matt.smith@birdconservancy.org. Applications that do not specifically detail the applicant’s avian identification skills will not be considered. I will begin reviewing applications on or around January 8th and positions will be filled as suitable applicants are found.