

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title:	Seasonal Intern Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring
FLSA Status:	Volunteer
Reports to:	Crew Leader
Direct Reports:	None
Location:	New Mexico and Arizona
Salary:	Stipend of \$250/2 weeks
Duration:	The season runs from early April to mid-July and internships can occur at any time during our season with a minimum of a one-month commitment
Benefits:	Not eligible
Purpose	Interns will participate in research activities to estimate occupancy rates of Mexican Spotted Owls as well as other research projects pertaining to Mexican Spotted Owl population monitoring. The internship is ideal for individuals who have a strong passion for wildlife biology but are looking to gain field experience. Interns will work alongside experienced field biologists to conduct nighttime surveys for Mexican Spotted Owls in National Forests across Arizona and New Mexico. Interns will have the opportunity to gain experience conducting surveys, hone field skills (e.g. backcountry camping, navigation, etc.), and learn about owl ecology, study design, and occupancy monitoring.

About the Organization:

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is a non-profit that is headquartered at the Environmental Learning Center at Barr Lake State Park with a satellite office in Fort Collins and fieldwork outposts in the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Intermountain West Regions. Bird Conservancy conserves birds and their habitats through an integrated approach of Science, Education and Stewardship. Our work radiates from the Rockies to the Great Plains, Mexico and beyond. We are innovative leaders in bird monitoring, research and stewardship. We support a dedicated team of scientists, educators and biologists.

Project Overview:

Mexican Spotted Owls are a federally threatened species. Their recovery plan states that ten years of occupancy monitoring is needed before any decision can be made to remove them from the protection of the Endangered Species Act. We conduct that occupancy monitoring across Arizona and New Mexico in order to track trends in occupancy rates and inform conservation. In addition, we conduct complimentary research and other projects pertaining to Mexican Spotted Owl survey methods and monitoring.

Essential Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct nighttime surveys for Mexican Spotted Owls in National Forests following established protocols
- Communicate regularly with crew leader
- Interact positively and professionally with landowners, locals and agency employees as needed

Other Duties:

- Other duties as assigned

Knowledge, Skills and Experience required (unless otherwise noted):

- Completion or progress towards a Bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, environmental science, or a related field
- Comfort in a backcountry setting
- Ability to hike up to 12 miles a day while carrying up to 40 lbs
- Attention to detail and ability to collect quality data
- Ability to learn visual and auditory identification of nocturnal birds

- Ability to travel and work with a partner for 10 day periods
- Ability to maintain a positive disposition in extreme conditions
- Effective written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills

Physical Demands / Work Environment:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- High-level stress
- Surveying, hiking, and navigating at night in mountainous terrain, both on- and off-trail, in variable and extreme weather conditions
- Working in areas with potentially dangerous wildlife (black bears, mountain lions, rattlesnakes)
- May include lifting up to forty (40) pounds of project gear on a frequent basis. Proper lifting techniques required.
- Standing, walking, and hiking for extended periods of time outside in uneven terrain carrying a forty (40) pound pack
- Camping with some backpacking during work periods
- Work schedule will be 10 days on, 4 days off

Material and Equipment Directly Used:

- Standard field equipment (e.g. GPS units, compasses, first aid kits, etc.)
- Specific survey equipment (e.g. FoxPro game call, autonomous recording units, etc.)

To Apply:

To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three references IN ONE DOCUMENT (.pdf or .doc) to spottedowl@birdconservancy.org. Name your application file accordingly: *Lastname_MSO2020_intern*. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled with preference to those submitted before January 6th.