

**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Avian Field Technician – Northern Great Plains (Multiple Positions)

**FLSA Status**: Seasonal / Hourly / Non-Exempt

**Reports to:** Seasonal Crew Leader

**Direct Reports:** None

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

**Salary:** $17.10-$17.68 - hourly, depending on experience. Some overtime hours may be required. In addition to pay, reimbursement for project-related travel, camping, and lodging will be provided.

**Duration:** Approximately 8 weeks (mid-May to early-July)

**Benefits:** None

**Start Date** 05/17/2021 (tentative)

**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 technicians to conduct point counts throughout the Northern Great Plains for the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program. These positions represent an excellent opportunity to explore the Great Plains and Black Hills while advancing avian conservation at regional scales. The position will run from approximately May 18th through early July. Surveys are located on both public and private lands throughout Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota and cover a vast range of elevations and habitats.

Successful candidates must be able to attend a mandatory 5-day paid training beginning in mid-May. Upon the successful completion of training, technicians will work independently conducting bird surveys. Survey work will include long days in the field and working a variable schedule. Technicians must be able to identify all bird species found in the Northern Great Plains by sight and sound upon completion of training, and should expect to hike long distances off-trail in steep and rugged terrain on a regular basis. Primitive camping, often without phone service or facilities, and occasional overnight backcountry travel to survey remote road-less areas will be required. Completion of job duties will 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 Wyoming technician.

**REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**Applicants should be enthusiastic, physically fit, 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 and weather conditions. Applicants must enjoy working independently with multiple days of solitude. The ability to identify all avian species that breed in the Northern Great Plains 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. Desired qualifications include prior experience conducting point count surveys, camping, long-distance hiking, and navigating in the backcountry. Applicants with personal 4WD/AWD vehicles are encouraged to apply; however, Bird Conservancy may be able rent vehicles for qualified applicants that do not possess 4WD/AWD vehicles if they are at least 21 years of age.

**REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

* Ability to identify avian species of the Norther Great Plains by sight and sound is required
* Driver’s license, proof of insurance, and experience driving 4WD vehicles is required
* Prior experience conducting avian point counts is highly desired
* Experience camping, long-distance hiking, and navigating in the backcountry is highly desired

**To Apply:**

Email a cover letter detailing your bird identification knowledge and dates of availability, a resume, and three references as a single PDF document to: Matt Smith at matt.smith@birdconservancy.org and Matthew McLaren at matthew.mclaren@birdconservancy.org. Applications will be reviewed in early January 2020 and positions will be filled as suitable applicants are found.