

Job Title: Avian agroecology technician

Description: We are seeking one seasonal field technician from mid-April through mid-July to assist a PhD student (Cody Pham) in songbird nest box monitoring and GPS tagging.

Specifically, our Agricultural Research Institute funded project focuses on exploring how local habitat features (*e.g.*, hedgerows, scattered trees) in vineyards and surrounding landscapes affect avian reproductive success, bird movements, and pest control services provided by birds. The technician will join a collaborative team of scientists from UC Davis, Cal Poly Humboldt, and UC Riverside.



The primary role of the field technician will be to work collaboratively to monitor nest boxes, quantify nestling growth, use GPS devices to track the movement of parent birds, and characterize bird diets in agriculture. Specifically, the field technician will hand capture nestlings at nest boxes to collect morphometric measurements and fecal samples. Additionally, the field technician will assist in capture of parent birds to collect morphometric measurements and fecal samples, as well as fit/remove GPS tags via leg-loop harnesses. Other duties will include recording GPS waypoints, classifying land use types using GIS, data entry, nest box maintenance, and other related tasks. Field training will be provided to help the technician become familiar with established protocols and methodologies. A field vehicle and housing will be provided.

Minimum qualifications:

1. At least some prior experience conducting ecological field work, ideally with birds.
2. Ability to tolerate working in inclement weather and light hiking in muddy farm conditions.
3. Comfortable working with minimal supervision, as well as part of a team.
4. Ability to follow standardized protocols and carefully record and enter data.
5. Driver's license and clean driving record (to operate provided university vehicle and drive between work locations).
6. Professional, clear communication skills to coordinate with supervisor.

Preferred qualifications:

1. Prior bird handling experience.
2. Some prior data management experience (data entry and cleaning/review processes)
3. Experience with ArcGIS and/or other spatial analysis software

Duration: 12 weeks from mid-April 2022 through early-August 2022.

Wage: Approximately \$20.14-\$22.50 per hour depending on prior experience. This is a full-time (40 hours per week), limited-term appointment through the University of California, Davis. Housing will be provided, and the successful applicant will be expected to relocate to the study region for the duration of the appointment.

Follow-up study: This opportunity will be available again in mid-April through mid-July 2024 and, given a successful first season, the same technician would be given priority for the position in the following year.

To apply: Email a single document (PDF preferred) including (1) a cover letter describing previous avian research experience and interest in this position, (2) a resume or CV, and (3) contact information for three references to Cody Pham (chupham@ucdavis.edu). Include “Avian agroecology nest monitoring technician” in the subject line. Applicants from historically marginalized communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Closing date: First review date will be November 14th. Applications afterward will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

The Karp Lab is committed to maintaining a supportive, inclusive, and safe scientific environment in the laboratory and the field. Applicants will receive field safety standards and training.

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