

Ph.D. Position on Dynamic Habitat Indices and their effects on North American Birds (UW-Madison)

Seeking a graduate student to join an exciting project exploring the effects of changes in vegetative productivity on bird populations at continental scales. Remote sensing allows for the development of Dynamic Habitat Indices (DHIs) that capture multiple aspects of vegetative productivity. DHIs are known to be important determinants of species richness. We are embarking on a new collaborative study to determine how synchronized changes in vegetative productivity effect multiannual changes in population dynamics for multiple bird species. We will focus on analyzing data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey. This new project is funded by NASA as part of a broader collaboration with the SILVIS lab (<http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/>). This position will start in the fall of 2021. The research assistantship includes an annual stipend, tuition remission and health care benefits.

Applicants with a MS degree in ecology, forestry, geography, or other related disciplines are preferred, but will consider excellent applicants with a BS degree if they have relevant experience. A solid knowledge of avian ecology, population dynamics, spatial modeling, and statistics is preferred. The preferred candidate will also have previous experience analyzing large biological databases. Excellent English writing and verbal communication skills are essential.

Review of applicants will begin immediately, but the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. We promote excellence through diversity and encourage all qualified individuals to apply. The position is open to both US citizens and international candidates.

UW-Madison has a long history of excellence in ecology, conservation biology, remote sensing, and geography. The university ranks consistently among the top research universities in the United States. Total student enrollment is 43,000 of which approximately 12,000 are graduate and professional students, and there are over 2,000 faculty. UW-Madison is an exciting place to learn and conduct research! The city of Madison ranks as one of the most attractive places in the U.S. to live and work. For information about campus and city, please see <http://www.wisc.edu/about/>

To apply, please send 1) a cover letter summarizing research interests and experiences; 2) curriculum vitae; 3) contact information for three references, and 4) an unofficial list of coursework (undergraduate and graduate) to bzuckerberg@wisc.edu. Please send all materials as a single PDF. After reviewing all applicants, I will ask for reference letters from top candidates.