

Ph.D. Assistantship: Conservation genomics of wild turkeys in Nebraska

Description: We are seeking a candidate for a Doctor of Philosophy assistantship in Applied Ecology at the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The student will develop large multi-locus genomic datasets to conduct analyses to evaluate the influence of social behaviors (social dominance) on reproduction and fitness as well as genomic connectivity in western Nebraska. The project will produce actionable science with the results of this multi-faceted study informing management actions on the wild turkey in Nebraska as well as contributing to nation-wide studies investigating the decline of this important game species. The successful candidate will be involved in intensive field (capture, monitoring of transmittered individuals and nests, and vegetation surveys) and laboratory work (genomic data collection). This a collaborative project with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and faculty at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Georgia. As such, the successful candidate will work with a team of students, technicians, private landowners, university faculty, and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission biologists.

Start Date: August 2022 (flexible to Jan 2023)

Salary and Benefits: \$27,000 per year (4.5 years) will be paid through a research assistantship. Tuition and health insurance will be covered by the project. Student is responsible for fees.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Science (exceptional candidates) and Master of Science (preferred) in biology, ecology, evolution, wildlife or other relevant discipline. Experience with molecular biology techniques, avian capture methods, and coding in R or python is desirable. A willingness to learn, attention to detail, and a strong work ethic are essential.

Contact: Please contact Sarah Sonsthagen (ssonsthagen2@unl.edu) for more information about the project. To apply, please send the following to the email address above: 1) One-page cover letter describing your interest in the position, skills, and goals, 2) CV, 3) unofficial transcripts, and 4) contact information for 3 references. If possible, please include a writing sample (published manuscript, official report, etc.). UNL and NECFWRU values equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Preference will be given to applications received by July 10, 2022.