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Lila O. Wilson Biological Monitoring Fellowship
Position Type: Full-Time Term Fellowship
Date of Employment: May 15th, 2023 to April 30th, 2024
Location: Wood River, NE
Stipend: \$1,800/month with dormitory-style housing provided
Website: cranetrust.org

Description

We are currently seeking one seasonal Biological Monitoring Fellow to serve as part of our natural resources research team at the Crane Trust for the upcoming 2023 field season and 2024 crane season. The Biological Monitoring Fellow will be working on a variety of projects described below. The position is generously supported by Johanna DeStefano, Professor Emeritus at The Ohio State University, and named after her mother, Lila. O. Wilson, a curious and passionate high school biology teacher from Springfield, Oregon, who shared her love of the natural environment with many.

Projects

Avian- Assisting with point count songbird surveys as well as helping with shorebird/wading bird and prairie chicken research; data entry.

Vegetation- Helping record data and read long-term vegetation monitoring plots, including both upland and riparian habitats. Learning to use taxonomic keys to identify plants to species. Data entry. Helping press plants and contributing to our herbarium.

Anuran- Supporting field-based anuran call surveys and associated efforts with acoustic recorders; data entry.

Butterfly Species of Concern Surveys- Transect surveys for Regal Fritillary and Monarch butterflies; data entry.

Small Mammal- Sherman box trapping along long-term monitoring transects to collect species diversity and abundance data; data entry.

Fish Seining- Systematic surveys for populations of slough fish. Position will aid with fish capture, identification, data recording; data entry.

Bison Health - Helping collect and process bison biometric data for long-term genetic and health studies; data entry.

Whooping Cranes – Assist with behavioral monitoring during fall migration as well as potentially with a habitat use study using historic data sources; data entry.

Ground Water Monitoring- Assist in recording groundwater depth data utilizing digital transducers.

Sandhill Cranes - General duties to assist with hospitality for VIP guests at the Crane Trust during the spring crane season. During this time, the fellow will be expected to relay to a general audience the information they learned in the previous field season.

Qualifications

A college degree with a major or minor in the biological sciences, natural resources, botany, range science, ecology, wildlife biology, agriculture, or a related field. If you do not have a degree or official minor in one of these fields, college credits equivalent to a minor (~24 credits in biological sciences) will be acceptable. Field experience is a bonus, whether in class, for work, or for an internship. Please let us know about your love of working in the outdoors. Our tallgrass prairie system is extremely beautiful and diverse, but you will be exposed to many biting insects, hot humid weather conditions, and poisonous plants. Knowing you enjoy working outside for extended periods of time, despite some basic lack of comfort, is a must. You must also be good at working in close quarters with other people. Housing

includes private rooms with shared men's bathrooms, women's bathrooms, and kitchen. These will be the same people you will be working long field hours with and collaborating with on research projects. An ability to get along with others is a must. Must have the ability to hike moderate distances over uneven terrain and lift up to 50 lbs. Skill in Microsoft Office, Access, Excel, R, SPSS, STATA, ArcGIS, ArcPad, Garmin Basecamp, DNR Garmin, and other programs often used in natural resources research is a great benefit, but not mandatory. Must also have proof of personal health insurance and a valid driver's license.

Deadline

The application deadline is March 24th, 2023 and interviews will be conducted between April 3rd and 7th, 2023.

Application Instructions

To apply, send one document, preferably a PDF, containing your resume/CV, contact information, at least three references, and a cover letter no longer than one page detailing your interests in our research projects, your skillset, important experiences (educational, volunteer, or work highlights), and a little about your philosophy on conservation and work. Thank you for your interest in this position. Please email (croberts@cranetrust.org) or airmail applications to the below address and feel free to e-mail with any questions.

Contact Information

Carrie L. Roberts
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