



Trustees: Brad Korell, Craig Thompson and Shelley Sahling-Zart  
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**Saunders Conservation Fellowship**

**Position Type: Term Fellowship**

**Date of Employment: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to April 30, 2024 (flexible)**

**Location: Wood River, NE**

**Stipend: \$1,800/month with dormitory-style housing provided**

**Website: [cranetrust.org](http://cranetrust.org)**

**Description**

We are currently seeking one Conservation 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 Conservation Fellow will be working on a variety of projects described below. This position will also entail a significant amount of public outreach via the production of digital media documenting their work. The position is generously supported by the Saunders Trust and is intended to support research, implementation, and outreach for the protection and enhancement of the ecological and hydrological integrity of the Platte River to help sustain Whooping Cranes, Sandhill Cranes, and other migratory birds.

**Projects**

**Conservation Storytelling** – Responsible for documenting their fellowship and producing media content to tell the story of conservation in the Central Platte River Valley.

**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 and cold 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 also be working long field hours with and collaborating with on research projects, both in the office and field. 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, STATA, R, SPSS, 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 for the position.

**Deadline**

The application deadline is March 24<sup>th</sup>, 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**

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