



The INSTITUTE for BIRD POPULATIONS



Field Lead – Nesting Bird Response to wildfire management in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

We have 1 opening for an experienced nest and point count surveyor crew lead during spring/summer 2024 on our project assessing the impact of wildfire management on understory nesting birds in sequoia groves and roadside corridors.

PROJECT DATES (tentative): Early/Mid April – Early August 2024 (tentative)

TRAINING: The field season will begin with a training session in project protocols for conducting nest surveys for understory species, multi-species point counts, and vegetation assessments. The Field Lead is required to already be able to identify Sierra birds by sight and sound and have previous nest survey and point count experience.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Primary duties will involve training, leading, and supervising a crew of 4 technicians in conducting understory species nest surveys and multi-species point counts in sequoia groves and the 2021 KNP Complex fire scar roadway corridors. Timing of surveys will be highly dependent on fire management activities and the Field Lead will be required to plan weekly tasks and adjust the survey schedule as needed. Data will be collected on tablets using the Field Maps application but some data entry will be required. The Field Lead will be required to ensure all data have been entered and verified.

Working in a team of two or three, crew members will hike to and survey recently burned forest sites and/or sequoia groves slated for wildfire management within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in the Sierra Nevada. On a typical day, crew members will wake up before dawn for travel (drive and/or hike) and spend the morning into early afternoon surveying for understory species nests, then conduct rapid

vegetation surveys. Afternoons will be spent preparing and assessing needs for the next day's survey sites. The Field Lead will focus more on conducting multi-species point counts before vegetation surveys but will spend some mornings nest surveying depending on the fire management schedule. Work will be physically demanding, sometimes involving several-mile hikes into survey sites and an occasional backpacking trip (hiking in up to 15 miles with up to 7 days of back-country camping) to access survey sites far from roads. Off-trail travel will be required at all survey sites.

REQUIREMENTS: We are looking for a candidate with prior birding experience, specifically nest surveys and multi-species point counts, and familiarity with the songs and calls of western montane birds. Previous experience managing multi-person crews, planning field work, and communicating effectively and professionally is highly preferred. Other requirements include a love of adventure, a desire to learn more about and contribute to wildfire management in sequoia groves, and an appreciation for recently burned montane landscapes.

Survey work will be distributed throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and may require staying several nights per week at front-country campgrounds or in the backcountry on the occasional backpacking trip. A willingness to face the rigors of fieldwork with good humor is important. These rigors include (but are not limited to!) physically demanding work, long work days that may begin well before dawn, wet/cold weather, mosquitos, occasional contact with bears, and less-than-glamorous housing. Successful candidates must be in excellent physical condition and must be comfortable with off-trail hiking and orienteering. A personal vehicle is highly desirable but not strictly required.

SCHEDULE: Typically 5 days on and 2 off (but subject to shift depending on wildfire management implementation). Backcountry trips will require longer work weeks, typically 7 days on.

EQUIPMENT: Crew Lead is expected to provide their own binoculars and other necessary gear including raingear, hiking boots, a daypack, and front-country camping/backpacking gear (tent, sleeping bag, cooking gear, etc.). Some gear may be available for borrowing.

COMPENSATION: The Crew Lead will be considered seasonal IBP staff, and will receive payment of \$3,600 per month (before payroll taxes). Shared housing will be provided. A personal vehicle is a plus but not strictly required; project-related travel mileage will be reimbursed. No fringe benefits are provided.

TO APPLY: Please email a resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of up to three references to [Lee Bryant](mailto:lbryant@birdpop.org), Biologist (lbryant AT birdpop DOT org). Professional references are preferred, but one reference may be a character reference. Many times, references are slow to reply; we encourage submitting more references so that your application can be quickly processed.

IBP values diversity and encourages people from all backgrounds to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.