



Avian Point Count Crew Leads (2) – Meadow and Aspen Restoration Research in Sierra Nevada National Forests

We have up to 2 openings for point count crew leads during spring/summer 2024 on our meadow and aspen restoration monitoring projects within the central Sierra Nevada, near Truckee and South Lake Tahoe, CA (Sierra, Nevada, Eldorado, Amador Counties). Prior point count experience is strongly preferred. The study areas are predominately montane meadow and aspen communities, which—besides having gorgeous sunrises every day—house some of the most diverse and thrilling bird communities in the region.

PROJECT DATES: Late April – Mid July (exact dates TBD)

TRAINING: The field season will begin with an intensive 3-week training session in visual and acoustic bird ID skills for the point count crew, as well as training in project protocols for conducting multi-species point counts, conducting habitat assessments, and field safety. Crew leads should have a good knowledge of the songs and calls of the Central Sierra before the training period begins and will participate in online review sessions of bird songs prior to the in-person training period along with the crew.

RESPONSIBILITIES: In addition to survey responsibilities, crew leads will be responsible for scheduling point counts, tracking completed work for the crew, and keeping everyone on task with data entry. On a typical day, surveyors will wake up before dawn, drive to survey sites (typically 30 min to 1.5 hr from crew housing or campsite), and

spend the morning conducting multi-species point counts and rapid vegetation surveys. The afternoon will then typically be spent entering data into a database (computer provided). Work will be somewhat physically demanding, sometimes involving hiking (typically less than 2 miles) into survey sites through steep terrain. Surveys will require moving through flooded meadow areas and navigating stream crossings (waders will be provided). Off-trail travel will be required at many survey sites. Some long drives and occasional car camping may be required. The typical work schedule will be 5-days on followed by 2-days off, but with crew approval may entail longer trips (to more distant locations).

REQUIREMENTS: We are looking for candidates with prior birding experience and familiarity with (and, ideally, the ability to teach) the songs and calls of western montane birds. Other requirements include a sense of humor, a love of adventure, and an appreciation for montane meadow landscapes. A willingness to communicate and coordinate with others, and to face the rigors of fieldwork and data entry with enthusiasm 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 and biting flies, occasional contact with bears, and less-than-glamorous housing (likely with shared bedrooms). Successful candidates must be in good physical condition and must be comfortable with off-trail hiking, working in waist deep water (waders provided), and orienteering with a handheld GPS (training provided). Although housing will be provided in a central location, travel to some study sites may require occasional camping.

EQUIPMENT: Crews and crew leads are expected to provide their own binoculars and camping gear, including hiking boots, knee high rubber boots, tent, sleeping bag, raingear, etc. Please speak to the interviewing biologist if this presents an overwhelming financial burden; it may be possible to find some personal gear for loan for the duration of the season. Additional survey gear including GPS, waders, and laser range finder will be provided by IBP. A personal vehicle is highly desirable but not strictly required.

COMPENSATION: Crew leads will be considered seasonal IBP staff, and will receive payment of \$3,300 per month (before payroll taxes), free shared housing, and mileage reimbursement for project-related travel, but no fringe benefits.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information about this IBP program, please [see https://www.birdpop.org/pages/montaneMeadowsConservation.php](https://www.birdpop.org/pages/montaneMeadowsConservation.php)

TO APPLY: Please email a resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of up to three references to Mandy Holmgren, Biologist at: mholmgren AT birdpop DOT org. Professional references are preferred, but one reference may be a character reference. Many times, references are slow to reply; we will contact all

submitted references and 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.