



The INSTITUTE for BIRD POPULATIONS



Seasonal Point-Count Technicians in Four Corners National Parks

Spend your summer doing field work in the beautiful National Parks of the Southern Colorado Plateau! We are looking for **Seasonal Point-count Technicians (3)** to conduct breeding bird point-count surveys as part of a long-term monitoring plan for the National Parks.

PROJECT DATES (tentative): April 1 – July 3, 2025.

TRAINING: The field season will begin with a three-week intensive training period focusing on field safety, identification of birds by sight and sound, and implementation of point-count surveys with distance sampling. Field crews should aim to have a good knowledge of the songs and calls of southwestern birds before the training period begins and will participate in online review sessions of bird songs prior to the in-person training period.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Primary duties will involve conducting point-count surveys on National Park Service lands in the Four Corners area, including Bandelier NM, Canyon de Chelly NM, Grand Canyon NP, Mesa Verde NP, Petrified Forest NP, and Wupatki NM. Habitat types surveyed will range from desert grassland and shrubland, to pinyon-juniper woodland, to montane mixed-conifer forest. Work will consist of generally week-long visits to national parks, travelling from Flagstaff, AZ using a combination of personal and rental vehicles. On a typical day, surveyors will wake up before dawn and spend the morning conducting multi-species distance surveys (point counts) while rapidly recording habitat characteristics and survey conditions at each count station. Surveys will be conducted solo on off-trail transects and will involve a mix of establishing new survey locations and revisiting previously established sites. The afternoon may be spent scoping out or travelling to the next day's surveys sites, though

crew members typically have free time to explore the parks. Work will be physically demanding, involving several-mile off-trail hikes into survey sites, often with steep topography, and very occasional short (1-3 day) backpacking trips to access survey sites far from roads.

REQUIREMENTS: Previous fieldwork in rugged, off-trail environments; prior ear birding experience; and/or familiarity with the songs and calls of southwestern birds are strongly preferred. An interest in learning about avian natural history and ecology in the Four Corners region or more generally is also desirable. Survey work will be distributed across national parks in three states (Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado) on the Colorado Plateau, requiring substantial car travel and willingness to lead a nomadic life for a few months. Technicians will be based out of the Flagstaff, Arizona area and communal housing will be provided. A willingness to face the rigors of fieldwork with good humor is important. These rigors include physically demanding work traversing steep topography; long workdays that begin well before dawn; both cold and hot weather; strong UV rays; venomous snakes; potential contact with elk, bison, and other large mammals; and extended car camping. Successful candidates must be in good physical condition and be comfortable with off-trail hiking and orienteering (training provided). Previous experience with backpacking and wilderness camping is a plus. A personal vehicle is highly desirable but not strictly required.

SCHEDULE: Typically, 7 days on and 3 off, though the exact length of hitches and days off will be slightly shorter or longer based on the number of survey transects at a park. Please note that this schedule will not apply during the intensive three-week training period.

EQUIPMENT: Volunteer technicians are expected to provide their own binoculars, hiking boots and camping gear for car camping (tent, sleeping bag, folding chair, etc.). Technicians with backpacking experience should also bring their gear for backcountry camping. A large communal cooler, folding tables, water jugs, and communal camping stove will be provided by IBP.

HOUSING: Shared housing will be provided in or near Flagstaff, Arizona for the full duration of training and the field season. Sleeping arrangements may involve shared bedrooms; we will accommodate requests for same-gender roommates. Field accommodations will involve car camping in public and private campgrounds within national parks that include public restrooms and (sometimes) showers, with occasional backcountry camping required.

COMPENSATION: These fulltime (40 hrs/week) IBP seasonal staff positions pay **\$18/hr** (before payroll taxes), and do not include fringe benefits. We will additionally provide free shared housing and reimbursement of project-related mileage in personal vehicles.

TO APPLY: Please fill out [IBP's job application form](#). Please select IBP job code **Point Count-SW Parks-Field Tech** when ranking this position. Your submission should include ranked position preferences, resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of up to three references. Professional references are preferred, but one reference may be a character reference. References are often slow to reply, so we encourage submitting more references so that your application can be quickly processed.

IBP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

IBP complies with federal and state disability laws and makes reasonable accommodations for applicants and employees with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodations for completing an application or participating in the application process, please call 707-789-3224 or email IBPhumanresources@proton.me for assistance.