

The Smith Lab of Avian Ecology in the Department of Environmental Science and Ecology at The University of Texas at San Antonio in collaboration with The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Audubon Texas seeks applicants for an MSc position to start January 2021. The research aims to assess the effects of Bird City Texas, a community-focused certification program created to help people protect birds and their habitats (<https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas>) on (1) attitudes towards birds and bird conservation, (2) engagement in nature-based recreation and bird conservation efforts, and (3) on nature-based knowledge. The student will help develop and implement quantitative and qualitative assessment tools to address the objectives of the study. The successful applicant will develop a thesis based on the study objectives. The results from this study will inform strategies that promote participation in the Birds City Texas program across the state. Up to two years of funding are available for travel and research costs, a stipend for four semesters (\$1500/month), and tuition waiver.

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited university in biology, ecology, environmental science, wildlife biology, or some other related scientific discipline
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in upper-division work
- Interest in social science research
- Demonstrated research experience (data collection, analysis, writing)
- Excellent communication skills (verbal and oral)

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience of developing and using qualitative and/or quantitative tools (e.g. survey instruments, focus groups) in social science research
- Knowledge of human dimensions of wildlife, particularly how wildlife management decisions affect the attitudes and behaviors of people
- Experience with Program R and GIS
- Aspirations to publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals
- Proficiency in Spanish

To Apply

Please submit an application packet as a single PDF-formatted document including: (1) one-page letter of interest, (2) CV or resume, (3) unofficial undergraduate/graduate transcripts, and (4) contact information for three professional references to Dr. Jennifer Smith (jennifer.smith@utsa.edu). Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Applicants from underrepresented groups in STEM are particularly encouraged to apply.

Contact Person

Please send questions about the position Dr. Jennifer Smith (jennifer.smith@utsa.edu).
