

M.S. Assistantship – Surveying Indiana’s Small Mammal Communities Using the Novel AHDriFT Camera Trap System

Description

One highly qualified candidate is sought to conduct a study employing a novel enclosed camera trap system to investigate the distribution, relative abundance, and conservation status of Indiana’s rare, at-risk, and data-deficient small mammal species. This student will a) assist in the deployment and management of AHDriFT camera trap systems across the state of Indiana, b) manage and analyze large amounts of image data, and c) use GIS and occupancy modelling to look at patterns of individual species occupancy. This project is funded by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The successful applicant will obtain a research assistantship with the Purdue University Fort Wayne’s Department of Biological Sciences, which would provide the students with a stipend of approximately \$14,400 (pre-taxes) for the academic year (August – May) and includes a tuition fee remission benefit. The successful applicant will be responsible for dedicated fees each semester. A summer stipend of approximately \$3000 will be available over 2 summers. This position comes with no health benefits.

Field research will begin in May 2024. However, time spent in the field will be variable. Thus, housing will not be provided. Coursework and the assistantship will begin August 2024.

Qualifications

Character Qualifications

1. Keen interest in and passion for the ecology and conservation of mammals
2. A high degree of character integrity (honest, mature, responsible, respectful)
3. A high degree of professionalism (self-motivated, hard-working, detail-oriented)
4. Strong communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills, ability to lead a research crew

Field Qualifications

1. Orienteering and GPS experience (required)
2. Camera trap experience (preferred)
3. GIS experience (preferred)
4. Above average computer skills
5. Ability to carry heavy equipment over challenging terrain
6. Ability to work long or irregular hours
7. Valid driver’s license and good driving skills

Academic Requirements

1. B.S. in Biology or related field with a clear link to Ecology and/or Wildlife Biology (as evidenced by courses taken)
2. Undergraduate G.P.A. of > 3.0

To apply, please send Drs. Scott Bergeson (bergesos@pfw.edu) the following documents by the application deadline:

- Letter of interest detailing your research interests, career goals, and interest in the position
- Curriculum Vitae (including G.P.A.)
- Contact information for 3 references
- Unofficial transcripts

For more information:

Purdue University Fort Wayne: <https://www.pfw.edu/>; [Bergeson Wildlife Lab](#)

Application Deadline: February 12, 2024

Applications will be reviewed as they are received