

Postdoctoral Researcher: avian diversity and forest management

Dr. Connor Wood's lab group at the K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics (connormwood.com / birds.cornell.edu/ccb) is recruiting a postdoctoral researcher to study the effects of forest management on bird diversity in California's Sierra Nevada. The project draws on an ongoing ecosystem-scale passive acoustic monitoring program that generates nearly 1 million hours of audio annually, the machine learning algorithm BirdNET, which generates avian diversity data from the audio, and remotely sensed forest structure datasets that describe both forest management history and current conditions. Core objectives include exploring the influence of forest management history on contemporary biodiversity and developing a bird diversity index to facilitate quantitative assessments of the effects of forest restoration on biodiversity. The scope of the project provides an opportunity to make direct contributions to both conservation and basic ecology.

The position is based at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY, which is known in part for its vibrant postdoc community. This provides unique opportunities for professional development, including networking and mentoring undergraduates. The position is also particularly collaborative: the incumbent will work closely with co-PI Dr. Zach Peery (University of Wisconsin-Madison), federal agency biologists and managers, and academic researchers specializing in ecology, statistics, and computer science.

Salary will be commensurate with experience (approximately \$55,000 plus benefits). Start date is flexible within summer – fall 2023. The position is funded for two years; extension is contingent upon funding and performance. The position is administered by UW-Madison.

A PhD in biological or ecological sciences or statistics is required. Beneficial qualifications include: experience with terrestrial population modeling, GIS skills, experience analyzing remote sensed data, familiarity with Bayesian statistics, experience working with large acoustic datasets, familiarity with machine learning tools, and field experience with birds and/or the Sierra Nevada ecosystem. Writing skills and a strong publication record for the professional stage of the applicant are also valuable.

The Yang Center is an [inclusive community](#) and we welcome anyone who has an interest in bioacoustics including people of every age, gender, ethnicity, race, skin color, religion, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, nationality, or background, among others. Applicants are invited – but not required – to share their perspectives or experiences related to the principles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice.

To apply, send as one file a cover letter, CV, and contact information for three references to Connor Wood (cmw289@cornell.edu). Review of applications will begin on February 24, 2023 and will continue until a suitable candidate has been identified.