



## ACOUSTIC MONITORING BIOLOGIST

*Posted October 10, 2022*

The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) seeks a biologist to assist with an autonomous recording unit (ARU) bird monitoring project at California off-highway vehicle recreation parks and other ARU monitoring projects across the US. **This is a year-round position that includes archiving and processing acoustic data, verifying species on recordings, conducting bird point counts, coordinating with land managers and other project partners, deploying and maintaining ARUs, and reporting (including opportunity to publish).** The successful candidate will have expertise in the identification of birds of the western United States, some experience deploying ARUs and processing acoustic data using automated methods (using R, Python, or other language), and a willingness to spend much of the spring/summer season in the field deploying ARUs and conducting in-person point counts. This is a full-time, salaried staff position, with health insurance and other fringe benefits.

**ABOUT IBP:** We are an international avian research and conservation organization based in Petaluma California, with staff across the U.S. We enable science-based conservation of species and habitats by studying the abundance, demography, and ecology of birds and other wildlife. We collaborate locally, nationally, and globally with government agencies, universities, and NGOs to assess the effects of climate change, land management actions, and other ecological stressors on bird populations, and prescribe practical solutions to conservation challenges. More information is available at [www.birdpop.org](http://www.birdpop.org).

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:** This is an opportunity for a biologist particularly interested refining automated classification processes for ARU data, so that the results can be employed to better understand bird biology and conservation needs. Tasks for the first year of employment will entail establishing protocols for processing large amounts of acoustic data, and helping design and implement a variety of ARU projects across the west. All of these first-year tasks will be in collaboration with an IBP scientist that is already heavily involved in the ARU projects. After initial protocols for acoustic data processing are established, the position will focus largely on processing and verifying data collected across various ARU projects, including ingesting acoustic recordings for processing, processing recordings using automated methods (i.e. BirdNET), verifying a subset of classified recordings manually, and providing summaries of results. Other primary responsibilities will include programming ARUs, troubleshooting technical issues with ARU deployments, and coordinating shipments of memory devices and ARUs to and from project partners. From April through June each year, substantial time will be spent in the field conducting in-person bird surveys at off-highway vehicle recreation parks across California. Additional field work and travel within California and the western US for deployment of ARUs or conducting point counts for other IBP projects may also be required. Housing accommodations will be provided where feasible during fieldwork, but some camping will likely be required.

During the rest of the year the selected candidate may choose to work from IBP's main office in Petaluma, CA or telecommute from elsewhere in California, but proximity to IBP's office in Petaluma is a plus.



**SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE:** The successful candidate will ideally have all or most of the following attributes:

- Expertise in identification of western birds, especially by sound.
- Experience conducting multi-species bird surveys.
- Experience working closely with outside collaborators.
- High level of physical fitness and ability to work in rugged terrain.
- Experience processing bird acoustic data with software tools.
- Interest or experience in batch processing of recordings using a local server or cloud service.
- Experience with programming in R or Python.
- Experience deploying and maintaining Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs).
- A sense of humor and a desire to integrate into a friendly, highly collaborative team.
- A clean driving record and a personal vehicle that can be driven to field sites (a normal passenger vehicle should be sufficient). Mileage reimbursement for travel to field sites will be provided.

**COMPENSATION:** This is a year-round staff position starting at \$4,000/month with fringe benefits including health insurance.

**START DATE AND HIRING SCHEDULE:** Employment will begin in mid-January. Application review will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

**TO APPLY:** Please email a resume, cover letter, and contact information for up to 3 references to Mandy Holmgren at: mholmgren AT birdpop DOT org. Please specify 'Acoustic Monitoring Biologist position' in the Subject line.

*IBP values diversity and encourages people from all backgrounds to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration regardless of race, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.*