



THE INSTITUTE FOR BIRD POPULATIONS



Willow Flycatcher Surveys in the Sierra Nevada

Spend your summer doing field work in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains! We are looking for volunteer field technicians to conduct Willow Flycatcher surveys.

PROJECT DATES (tentative): May 27, 2019 – July 26, 2019.

TRAINING: The field season will begin with a 3-4 day training period focusing on field safety, project protocols for conducting Willow Flycatcher surveys, navigation and mapping, and conducting habitat assessments.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Primary duties will involve conducting targeted surveys for Willow Flycatchers at meadows with recent breeding status and mapping the boundaries of active territories. Some additional time will be spent documenting meadow conditions and recording locations of beaver dams and lodges.

An average day will include a 30 min - 1 hour drive/hike during pre-dawn hours to access survey areas. Surveys are conducted from before sunrise until 10am, then follow-up documentation of Willow Flycatcher locations and recording habitat condition will occur until approximately 1 or 2pm. Data entry will be required on some days; a computer will be provided. Work will be moderately physically demanding involving off-trail hikes into survey sites and working in wet, marshy conditions.

REQUIREMENTS: Experience with bird surveys and monitoring is not required but will be highly favored. Familiarity with Sierra Nevada bird songs and previous ecological fieldwork in rugged environments is preferred. Other requirements include a sense of humor, a love of adventure, a desire to learn more about Willow Flycatcher natural history and an appreciation for meadow and wetland landscapes. Survey work will occur primarily in the vicinity of Truckee, CA (just NW of Lake Tahoe). A willingness to face the rigors of fieldwork with good humor is important. These rigors include physically demanding work, long work days that may begin well before dawn, wet and cold weather, hot and dry weather, mosquitoes and biting flies, occasional contact with bears, and housing that may be rustic and/or somewhat crowded. **Although housing will be provided in a central location, travel to other study sites may require occasional camping.** Successful candidates must be in good physical condition and must be comfortable with off-trail hiking and orienteering (training provided). A personal vehicle is highly desirable but not strictly required.

Schedule: 7 days on and 3 off, with one period of 10 days consecutive work from June 15 to June 25 (no days off during that time), but before and after that time the schedule can be more flexible.

EQUIPMENT: Interns are expected to provide their own binoculars, rubber boots and camping gear, including hiking boots, tent, sleeping bag, raingear, etc.

COMPENSATION: These are volunteer positions. Compensation includes the valuable skills you will develop, the satisfaction of joining important conservation efforts, and the joy of working with fun-loving people in the mountains. We will provide shared housing, a per diem of \$43 (amounts to approximately \$1075 per month) to help with food and general living expenses, and mileage reimbursement for all project-related travel.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information about this IBP program, please see <http://birdpop.org/pages/willowFlyctchrConsSN.php>

TO APPLY: Please email a resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of two references to [Mandy Holmgren](mailto:mholmgren@birdpop.org), Biologist at: mholmgren AT birdpop DOT org.

