



# The INSTITUTE for BIRD POPULATIONS



## **Contract Field Technicians, Avian Point Counts at Fort Bragg, North Carolina**

Get paid to go birding - spend your summer doing fieldwork in forests and woodlands of beautiful Fort Bragg, North Carolina! We are looking for two contract field technicians to conduct avian point count surveys for approximately 7 weeks.

**PROJECT DATES:** Early May to late June 2026

**TRAINING:** The field season will begin with a short orientation session. Contractors are required to already be able to identify birds of the Southeastern U.S. by sight and sound, and applicants with previous point count experience will be strongly preferred.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Working in a team of two, contractors will survey areas on the Fort Bragg military installation. On a typical day, surveyors will wake up before dawn and spend the morning conducting multi-species point counts. Afternoons are typically spent entering data or with free time. The work is physically demanding, sometimes involving hikes of several miles, including off-trail travel.

**REQUIREMENTS:** We are looking for candidates with prior birding experience and familiarity with the songs and calls of Southeastern birds. Other requirements include the ability to work hard in an unsupervised environment, a sense of humor, a love of adventure, and a desire to learn more about the avifauna of the region. A willingness to face the rigors

of fieldwork with good humor is important. These include (but are not limited to) physically demanding work, long workdays that begin before dawn, wet, cold weather, mosquitoes, ticks, and possibly snakes. Successful candidates must be in excellent physical condition and must be comfortable with off-trail hiking and orienteering with a hand-held GPS.

Crew members will be lodged in an AirBnB house or apartment with a full kitchen, Wi-Fi, and other amenities near the base in the town of Fayetteville, NC, a small city with many restaurants, stores, and other amenities.

**SCHEDULE:** Typically, 5 days on, 2 days off but with considerable flexibility to suit your needs. There are a fixed number of transects to be completed, and contractors will have some flexibility in how this is scheduled within the early May to late June timeframe.

**EQUIPMENT:** Contractors are expected to provide their own binoculars, hiking boots, raingear, day pack, and other personal gear. Contractors must provide their own transportation to Fayetteville, but once there will be provided with a 4WD rental vehicle; the ability to safely drive a 4WD truck or small SUV is required.

**COMPENSATION:** Surveyors will be considered INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS and will receive \$4,800 split between two payments, one at the end of May, the other when the work has been completed. Contractors will **NOT** receive health insurance, worker's compensation, or any other fringe benefits. It is strongly recommended that candidates have their own health insurance.

**TO APPLY:** Please send a resume and cover letter to [mholmgren@birdpop.org](mailto:mholmgren@birdpop.org). Please put "Fort Bragg Point Counts" in the Subject Line. Your full submission should include, resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of up to three references. Professional references are preferred, but one reference may be a character reference. References are often slow to reply, so we encourage submitting more references so that your application can be quickly processed.