



National Audubon Society Job Announcement Saline Lakes Ecologist

Now in its second century, Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Audubon's mission is engaging people in bird conservation on a hemispheric scale through science, policy, education and on-the-ground conservation action. By mobilizing and aligning its network of Chapters, Centers, State and Important Bird Area programs in the four major migratory flyways in the Americas, the organization will bring the full power of Audubon to bear on protecting common and threatened bird species and the critical habitat they need to survive. And as part of BirdLife International, Audubon will join people in over 100 in-country organizations all working to protect a network of Important Bird Areas around the world, leveraging the impact of actions they take at a local level. What defines Audubon's unique value is a powerful grassroots network of nearly 500 local chapters, 23 state offices, 41 Audubon Centers, Important Bird Area Programs in 50 states, and 700 staff across the country. Audubon is a federal contractor and an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

Position Summary

The Saline Lakes Ecologist will be a member of the National Audubon Society Western Water Initiative team. The Initiative's goal is to advance balanced solutions to water use in the West to ensure birds, ecosystems, people and economies thrive. The role is based in the Western United States, with preference for the Salt Lake City, Utah office.

The Ecologist will be part of Audubon's program focused on the Saline Lakes of the Intermountain West. This network of lakes and associated wetlands provides critically important breeding and stopover habitat for millions of migratory birds and supports local and regional economies. Reporting to the Director of the Saline Lakes Program, this position will help drive conservation outcomes for saline lakes and the birds that depend on them by analyzing, synthesizing, generating or facilitating development of scientific information necessary to inform priorities, management plans, and policy positions. In addition, s/he will be responsible for building and working with a network of scientific and other colleagues in agencies, academic institutions, conservation organizations and other partners to advance scientific understanding of saline lake and their associated wetland habitats.

Essential Functions

- Work collaboratively with scientists and experts within Audubon and in the broader intermountain west region to support and promote science-based saline lakes conservation.
- Design and implement or lead spatial and/or quantitative analyses of biological, hydrologic, chemical, and physical processes that affect birds in saline lakes and associated wetlands ecosystems at Great Salt Lake and throughout the Inter-Mountain West
- Analyze site-based avian count datasets and related measurements of invertebrates, water levels, habitat, pollutants, or other covariates that explain bird use of saline lake and wetlands habitats.



- Advise and provide assistance to the Director and other conservation leads (including Gillmor Sanctuary, Salton Sea and other locations) on saline lake system ecology and birds.
- Manage consultants and interns as required, to further conservation work in the field or analytical work in the office.
- Lead or contribute to peer-reviewed publications and grant proposals in support of projects.
- Engage with the news media, public, stakeholders and others, as requested, to share scientific information about birds, saline lakes, etc.

Qualifications and Experience

- Advanced Degree in applied ecology, biology, wildlife or natural or environmental sciences, hydrologic, or other natural resource conservation-related disciplines. Knowledge of birds and ornithology necessary.
- 2-3 years' applied experience preferred.
- Research experience in the ecology of waterfowl, shorebirds, or other waterbirds and their associated habitats.
- Demonstrated ability to: work with data and script analyses in R, Python, or another statistical software; clearly frame research questions, design studies, and implement analyses.
- Direct experience with habitat restoration and management, or experience collaborating with managers.
- Demonstrated skills in communicating science content to the public and writing scientific papers for technical, as well as diverse audiences.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate with resource managers, scientists and others from government agencies, NGOs, industry and other stakeholders in co-produced analyses, reports/publication, and visualizations.
- A self-starter, one who can think creatively about connections among birds, places, and people.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, as well as excellent GIS skills, particularly with ArcGIS products is a plus.

To Apply

Please submit a resume and cover letter directly online at <https://careers-audubon.icims.com/jobs/3626/saline-lakes-ecologist/job>