

MS Research Assistantship: Bicknell's Thrush Use of Commercial Forests

Location: University of Maine (Orono, ME) with fieldwork in western Maine

Stipend: ~\$19,500 per year plus tuition (up to 19 credits per academic year) and ½ health insurance premium

Description: I seek a graduate student to pursue a MS degree in either Forest Resources or Wildlife Ecology over a 2.5 to 3-year period with the School of Forest Resources or Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology at the University of Maine. The student will evaluate Bicknell's Thrush habitat selection and use of commercial forestland in Maine. The student will be hired as a Research Assistant with funding provided by the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experimental Station and Maine Cooperative Forestry Research Unit. This position will begin August 28, 2017 with an expected graduation date of Spring/Summer 2020. The thesis research will involve use of resource selection functions to describe breeding habitat for Bicknell's Thrush and to relate selected habitat use to commercial forest management history and silvicultural prescriptions.

Qualifications: Qualified applicants will possess a BS/BA degree in natural resources, forestry, ecology, biology, or other relevant field, strong interpersonal skills, and a valid driver's license. Competitive candidates will also have 1) an interest in understanding how forest management and silvicultural prescriptions affect songbird breeding habitat, 2) experience capturing and banding songbirds including attachment of telemetry tags, 3) tree and habitat measurement skills, and 4) spatial analysis skills using GIS. Additionally, I'm seeking someone who has a strong work ethic, outgoing personality, and ability to work independently for extended periods. This project will require the physical ability and mental toughness to work in remote, mountainous terrain and willingness to spend considerable time in dense, young conifer stands at high elevations. Living conditions for field work are likely to be primitive including regular wilderness camping. Peer reviewed publications are expected as a product of this research.

Applications: Email your resume, cover letter summarizing your experience and interests, college transcripts, GRE scores, and contact info for three references to Dr. Amber Roth via [amber.roth AT maine.edu](mailto:amber.roth@maine.edu)

Deadline for applications: May 5, 2017 or until filled.

The University of Maine is an Equal Opportunity Employer.