



Whip-poor-will Project Biologist

Overview

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies advances wildlife conservation in New England and across the Americas through a combination of scientific research and community engagement. Our work includes conducting research and long-term monitoring projects on a variety of species, from birds to salamanders, butterflies, and bees, and delivering our results to inform management decisions and policies that affect these animals. We work with many partners, from New England and Canada to the tropical locations where New England's migratory species overwinter, and engage thousands of volunteers ("community scientists") who participate in our work through data collection and monitoring. Our work is funded by a combination of grants, contracts, and donations. Our office is located in White River Junction, Vermont.

Position Description

VCE has conducted surveys and produced annual reports on the state threatened Whip-poor-will since 2014 (<https://vtcostudies.org/projects/forests/whip-poor-will-project/>). We seek to hire a seasonal Whip-poor-will project biologist to take the lead on surveys for the 2021 breeding season. Working with VCE's Director of Conservation Science, the project biologist will:

- Recruit, coordinate, and train volunteers to conduct nightjar point count surveys using the Northeast Nightjar Survey protocol.
- Train seasonal wildlife technicians to conduct nocturnal nightjar point count surveys and enter data into Microsoft Excel.
- Plan lodging and travel arrangements for point count surveys located across the state.
- Conduct nocturnal roadside point counts using GPS and compass, working in a team of two with an assistant.
- Utilize Automated Recording Units (ARUs) to detect nocturnal birds.
- Accurately record point weather data, location data, and Whip-poor-will data in Microsoft Excel.
- Assess and document general vegetation and habitat information.
- Plot survey results using Delorme Topo GPS software and qGIS.
- Compose the annual report for Vermont Fish & Wildlife, including staff and volunteer data.

The Whip-poor-will Project biologist must be comfortable working with a second field technician and conducting nightlong surveys along roadsides. Surveys will take place on every clear night from May 19th–June 2nd and again from June 17th–June 30th. For the 2021 season, surveys will be primarily focused on Windham and Windsor counties. In the weeks between survey periods, the project biologist will process data, make maps, communicate with volunteers, and plan routes for the next survey period. The project biologist must be confident in their ability to detect bird calls at a distance, willing to camp (must provide own camping equipment) during the duration of the field survey periods, and have a personal vehicle to access the survey locations.

Term: May 3–July 2 (start date may be flexible by one week). This is a temporary, non-exempt position that is not benefits eligible.

Compensation: \$15-16/hr plus reimbursement for mileage traveled in personal vehicle between local lodging and field sites.

Application Procedure: To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Ryan Rebozo (rrebozo@vtecostudies.org) by 5:00pm April 9th.