



CONSERVATION SCIENCE INTERN

Job Summary:

Tracy Aviary's Conservation Science Program helps conserve birds and their habitats through citizen science. Focusing on key local habitats and pressing regional conservation issues, our goals are to gather novel information about local avian ecology, inform habitat restoration and stewardship, and engage a diverse community in scientific data collection. In summer/fall of 2019, Tracy Aviary is offering a 4-month internship that will provide on-the-ground experience in avian conservation science, with a focus on two of the Aviary's research projects:

1) Bird Monitoring and Vegetation Surveys in Salt Lake County: Tracy Aviary conducts year-round citizen science bird and vegetation surveys at 12 study sites throughout Salt Lake County. These surveys help answer questions about the impact of restoration, management, and habitat alteration on bird communities, and provide a basis for recommendations on bird-friendly practices at these sites. The Conservation Science Intern will assist in vegetation monitoring surveys at Alta Ski Area, data entry and analysis for all study sites, and non-breeding season surveys at various sites around Salt Lake County.

2) Salt Lake Avian Collision Survey (SLACS): Approximately two-thirds of all migratory bird species migrate at night, and many of these birds miss seasonal migratory cues, wander off course, and collide with buildings as a result of light pollution. In order to document light pollution and its impacts on birds in Salt Lake City, Tracy Aviary has created the Salt Lake Avian Collision Survey (SLACS). For this project, staff and citizen scientists conduct early morning surveys in downtown Salt Lake City during peak migration to document the birds that have collided with buildings overnight. This information is used to inform Lights Out Salt Lake: a grassroots conservation initiative where private residents, buildings, and businesses elect to turn out their lights at night during peak bird migration. The Conservation Science Intern will assist in coordinating volunteers for SLACS, conduct collision surveys during September and October, and assist with outreach for Lights Out Salt Lake.

Position Dates: ~July 1- Oct 31

Primary Duties and Schedule: Because this position includes several different projects, the schedule and duties will shift throughout the duration of the internship. The internship will start the **week of July 1** to complete an orientation at Tracy Aviary. After that, the intern will conduct a series of projects with different schedule and hour requirements:

- **Project 1: Alta Vegetation Surveys** (July 8th – July 25th, Monday-Thursday 7am-5pm, 40 hours/week, location: Alta Ski Area): Assist Alta Environmental Center staff in conducting

vegetation surveys at bird sampling points across Alta Ski Area. In teams of 3, hike or drive to points and survey species coverage in overstory, understory, and herbaceous layer. Transport up to Alta is included.

- **Project 2: Data Entry and Analysis for Bird Monitoring Surveys** (July 30-Aug 31, 20 hours/week (days/times for work hours flexible), Tracy Aviary): Enter data for breeding season point count surveys and vegetation surveys conducted during 2019 season. Assist in other duties related to Tracy Aviary's Conservation Science Program as needed. Optional analysis project available depending on experience and interest.
- **Project 3: Salt Lake Avian Collision Survey** (Sep 1 – October 31, 20 hours/week, 5 morning bird collision surveys (~dawn – 8am) plus office time (days/times for work hours flexible), location: downtown Salt Lake City and Tracy Aviary). Help coordinate and train volunteers for SLACS, conduct 5 bird-building collision surveys each week, and assist with outreach for Lights Out Salt Lake. Assist in other duties related to Tracy Aviary's Conservation Science Program as needed.

Stipend: \$400/month

Job Qualifications:

- Background and/or demonstrated experience in biology or ecology.
- Knowledge of plant and bird identification and experience with bird/habitat survey methods
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Experience working with volunteers/members of the public
- A good team player, but able to work independently
- Proficient with Microsoft Office suite
- Experience with data entry and analysis preferred (including ArcGIS, R, and/or other statistical software)

To Apply: Send a cover letter describing relevant experience and skills, a resume, and contact information for three references to Cooper Farr (cooperf@tracyaviary.org) by June 21, 2019. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.