I am seeking an outstanding graduate student to lead an exciting project exploring the role of climate variability on plant and bird populations across continental scales. Climate variability often results in the appearance of unusually warm and dry conditions in one part of the world with cold and wet conditions thousands of miles away. These lasting and predictable fluctuations in temperature and rainfall are known as climate dipoles and emerge across years or decades. This study seeks to analyze observations of irruptive bird movements from thousands of citizen scientists, decades of cone production records in conifer trees, and data collected throughout the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) to explore the role of climate dipoles on ecological processes and patterns. This new project is funded by NSF Macrosystems and NEON-enabled Science as part of a collaboration with Dr. Courtenay Strong (University of Utah) and Jalene LaMontagne (Depaul University). This position will start in the fall of 2020. The research assistantship includes an annual stipend, tuition remission, and health care benefits.

Applicants with an MS degree in ecology, forestry, geography, or other related disciplines are preferred but will consider excellent applicants with a BS degree if they have proven relevant experience. Solid knowledge of avian ecology, population dynamics, macroecology, climate change science, and statistics is preferred. The preferred candidate will also have previous experience analyzing large biological databases. Excellent English writing and verbal communication skills are essential.

Review of applicants will begin immediately, but the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. We promote excellence through diversity and encourage all qualified individuals to apply. The position is open to both US citizens and international candidates.

UW-Madison has a long history of excellence in ecology, conservation biology, remote sensing, and geography. The university ranks consistently among the top research universities in the United States. Total student enrollment is 43,000 of which approximately 12,000 are graduate and professional students, and there are over 2,000 faculty. UW-Madison is an exciting place to learn and conduct research! The city of Madison ranks as one of the most attractive places in the U.S. to live and work. For information about campus and city, please see http://www.wisc.edu/about/

To apply, please send 1) a cover letter summarizing research interests and experiences; 2) curriculum vitae; 3) information for three references; 4) an unofficial list of coursework (undergraduate and graduate); and 5) GRE scores (with percentiles) to bzuckerberg@wisc.edu. Send all materials as a single PDF. After reviewing all applicants, I will ask for reference letters from top candidates.

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