The Zuckerberg and Pauli labs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are currently advertising for a PhD student to investigate the effects of winter climate on ruffed grouse.

For species inhabiting temperate ecosystems, winter is a critical season punctuated by environmental unpredictability and tradeoffs in life history choices; escaping inclement weather, acquiring food, and avoiding predation are all mediated by winter conditions. Climate change is leading to the rapid shortening and alteration of the winter season. We are seeking a graduate student to join a long-term project testing the broader hypothesis that winter conditions influence the historic and future demography and population dynamics of ruffed grouse populations inhabiting forests of Wisconsin. The student would lead a multi-year field study on the impacts of winter climate on grouse overwinter survival as well as an analysis of long-term count data to assess how past and future winter climate affects range and population dynamics. The project is funded by the Wisconsin DNR and is expected to directly inform management planning and practices. The student will be co-advised by Dr. Benjamin Zuckerberg (https://zuckerberg.russell.wisc.edu/) and Dr. Jonathan Pauli (https://pauli.russell.wisc.edu/). This position will start in the fall of 2021. The research assistantship includes an annual stipend, tuition remission and health care benefits.

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 https://www.wisc.edu/about/. Program information is available on the UW-Madison Forest and Wildlife Ecology website: https://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/academics/21417982244_4e0823cb05_k/.

Applicants with a MS degree in ecology, forestry, geography, or other related disciplines are preferred, but we will consider exceptional applicants with a BS degree if they have relevant experience. A solid knowledge of avian ecology, population dynamics, spatial modeling, and statistics is preferred. The preferred candidate will also have previous experience capturing and handling wild birds and collaborating with natural resource agencies. Excellent English writing and verbal communication skills are essential.

To apply, please fill out a short survey (<15 minutes) and upload a cover letter summarizing research interests and experience, curriculum vitae, and unofficial transcripts or summary of relevant coursework (both undergraduate and graduate) at the following site: https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6RvmjUHJOzV1mv4. After reviewing all applicants, we will ask for reference letters from top candidates.

Review of applicants will begin immediately, but the position will remain open until suitable candidates are found. Applications received by April 16th, 2021 will be given full consideration. Finalists will be notified and instructed to submit a formal application, including reference letters, to the UW-Madison Graduate School. We will not be able to respond to queries about the status of applications, but general questions about the Forest and Wildlife Ecology graduate program can be directed to Allee Hochmuth (abhochmuth@wisc.edu), the Student Services
Coordinator. If you experience problems while filling out the application, please email Renee Klann (rklann@wisc.edu).

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 citizen and international candidates.