

PhD position at Carleton University: boreal birds in the far north of Ontario

Effective monitoring of boreal forest birds is needed to protect imperiled species in this rapidly changing ecoregion. Indigenous-led monitoring and land caring is fundamental to transformative change needed to achieve biodiversity conservation and supporting self-determination.



We are looking for a PhD student to join our dynamic team of collaborators across Carleton University, Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Boreal Avian Modelling Centre, KO Chiefs, and the community of Fort Severn. The student will undertake a study co-developed with the community of Fort Severn, analyzing hundreds of sites of acoustic data collected from 2009-2014 from northern Ontario as part of the Far North Biodiversity Project. The project will involve managing, interpreting, and spatial modelling of acoustic data, with potential for statistical integration with other existing datasets in the region. Results will be developed and interpreted alongside the community of Fort Severn to ensure outputs contribute to land use planning. All project components will adhere to First Nations principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP). The position start date is September 2026 (with some flexibility). The student will be supervised by Dr. Rachel Buxton (<https://www.biodiversityconservationsolutions.com/>) in collaboration with Christopher Koostachin, Nathan Wilson, Dr. Elly Knight, and Dr. Josie Hughes.

Essential Skills and Qualifications: Some experience with passive acoustic monitoring and bird identification; MSc degree in ecology, conservation science, data science, geography, applied statistics, or a related field; strong research, leadership, and communication skills; enthusiasm and kindness; respect for other ways of knowing. **Desirable Skills:** interweaving/braiding different ways of knowing; OCAP principles; spatial modelling

Application details: Applicants should send the following to Rachel Buxton (Rachel.Buxton@carleton.ca) by February 15, 2026: 1) Letter of interest summarizing your experience; 2) Curriculum Vitae; 3) Contact details for three references; and 4) University transcripts (unofficial are fine). Note that existing funding is only sufficient to cover Canadian citizens. **Please use the subject line: Boreal bird acoustics.**



About Carleton University: Carleton University is committed to fostering diversity within its community as a source of excellence, cultural enrichment, and social strength. We welcome those who would contribute to the further diversification of our university including, but not limited to: First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples; women; visible minorities; persons with disabilities; and persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression. Carleton understands that career paths vary. Legitimate career interruptions will in no way prejudice the assessment process and their impact will be taken into careful consideration.

Carleton University is a dynamic and innovative research and teaching institution with a national and international reputation as a leader in collaborative teaching and learning, research and governance. With over 29,000 students, 950 academic faculty, and 2,000 staff and more than 100 programs of study, we encourage creative risk-taking enabling minds to connect, discover and generate transformative knowledge. Carleton University is located in Ottawa, Canada's capital city, which has a population of almost one million and reflects the country's bilingual and multicultural character.