Temporary Full-Time Field Technicians Needed for Summer 2024 Tricolored Bat Study in Arkansas

The Willcox lab in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Tennessee is seeking enthusiastic field technicians to work full-time on a bat research project in Arkansas from mid-May – mid-August 2024.

Description- The tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) rangewide population has declined by 93% since the introduction of the fungal disease white-nose syndrome (Cheng et al. 2021). The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed federal listing of the species under the Endangered Species Act. Moreover, the species is one of Arkansas’ Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), warranting research and management to support species recovery. Studies for this species are extremely limited and roost needs may vary by geographic region.

An investigation into tricolored bat roost ecology in the West Gulf Plain region of Arkansas is needed to inform forest management and conservation decisions. While many listed bat species use bark or crevices in dead trees, conservation for the tricolored bat will likely differ due to their affinity for using dead and live foliage roosts. We will conduct mist net and telemetry surveys to locate diurnal roosts for male and female tricolored bats, identify factors that influence roost selection at three scales (roost, forest plot, and landscape), compare roost characteristics between males and females, and provide management recommendations based on our findings.

Technician duties will include mist netting for bats, processing all bats captured (i.e., species identification, sexing, ageing, assessing reproductive status, attaching bands), radio-tracking tagged tricolored bats to day roosts, vegetation sampling, data entry, and equipment maintenance.

Qualifications- Applicants must be interested, motivated, hard-working, dependable, and able to work amicably with others. Prior experience conducting radio telemetry is preferred but not essential. Preference will be given to applicants with a strong work ethic; willingness to work long hours in the field in hot, muggy, and difficult conditions; the ability to work well alone or as part of a team; willingness to interact with cooperating agencies and staff, and high attention to detail. There will be insects, poison ivy, hiking through swampy conditions at times, and possible encounters with venomous snakes.
Salary- $11/hour. Accommodation and transportation provided while in the field.

Application Procedure - To apply, submit a cover letter highlighting your qualifications and interest in the position, your resume, and contact information for 3 references (as a single document), to Emma Willcox at ewillcox@utk.edu. Deadline for applications is January 17 by 5:00 pm.