

Postdoctoral Associate position at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology: Quantifying the emerging risks of wildfire smoke for birds of North America



Location: Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY

Salary: \$63,480 to \$68,000 per year depending on experience, plus benefits

Start Date: Ideally Fall 2026 or January 2027

Application review begins June 30th, 2026.

We seek a creative, collaborative Postdoctoral Associate with experience in quantitative ecology and large spatial datasets. The successful candidate will lead interdisciplinary research leveraging the Cornell Lab's participatory science and migration datasets to advance knowledge of the emerging risks of wildfire smoke for North American birds. The Postdoctoral Associate will use data products from eBird Status and Trends (<https://science.ebird.org>), Project FeederWatch (<https://feederwatch.org/>), and other sources to quantify population-level exposure to smoke particulates and investigate how birds respond. More specifically, projects will focus on (1) quantifying year-round smoke exposure, (2) impacts during historic wintertime fires, and (3) analyzing potential impacts on migration and/or population trends. This postdoctoral position will be advised by [Dr. Andrew Stillman](#) in the Center for Avian Population Studies and [Dr. Olivia Sanderfoot](#) in the Center for Engagement in Science and Nature.

Anticipated Division of Time:

- Develop methods and quantitative workflows using Cornell Lab data products to meet project goals. (45%)
- Prepare peer reviewed papers and other research products. Present results at professional meetings, conferences, and seminars. (25%)
- Participate in general project management while working directly with internal and external project collaborators. (10%)
- Engage in career and professional development opportunities. (10%)
- Develop science communication deliverables to share research with the public. (5%)
- Perform related projects and special duties as assigned. Establish and maintain a safe, productive, and respectful working environment that fosters a culture of inclusivity and teamwork. (5%)

Term of Position:

This is a one-year appointment, renewable for up to three years contingent upon available work, funding and satisfactory work.

Requirements:

- Ph.D. in ecology, applied statistics, or a related field with strong background in statistics and model development by the start date of the postdoc.
- Experience with R and analyzing spatial datasets.
- Ability to apply quantitative methods to answer ecological questions or hypotheses.
- Record of success conducting research and scholarly activities, including publication in peer-reviewed journals and presentation at scientific conferences.

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience developing reproducible workflows (e.g., coding scripts compatible with the program R).
- Experience related to participatory science and/or opportunistic data sources.
- Background in wildlife ecology, ornithology, and/or public health.
- Interest in interdisciplinary ecological research.

Location:

The Postdoctoral Associate will be based in person at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. We are very open to a flexible, hybrid schedule (e.g., in the office 3-4 days/week).

To Apply:

Please apply via Academic Jobs Online <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/32072>.