



# Missouri River Bird Observatory

[www.mrbo.org](http://www.mrbo.org)

The Missouri River Bird Observatory is seeking 2-3 Grassland Bird Technicians for line-transect surveys and nest-searching/monitoring from 6 May - 15 July, 2019. MRBO's grasslands project is entirely conservation-focused and target species include some of the most precipitously declining birds in North America such as Eastern Meadowlark, Henslow's Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow.

After a training period, technicians will conduct surveys by 400-m transect that document all bird species by sight and sound. The transect surveys involve covering more than 50,000 acres on 40+ public and private grasslands throughout western Missouri, from the Iowa border down to Joplin. 2019 survey sites may also include several ranches in eastern Kansas (project funds pending). Surveys are conducted from approximately 10 May to the end of June.

From mid-May to mid-July, nest-searching and monitoring take place on native prairies near El Dorado Springs, where shared housing is provided in a very nice home. Nest searching is conducted via independent behavioral observations (e.g., watch-and-wait) as well as coordinated efforts with two or more technicians (e.g., rope-dragging).

All survey and nest-monitoring data are collected on iPads using ArcGIS Collector; no additional data entry is needed once field work has concluded for the day. This is a good opportunity for gaining experience working in a threatened habitat and employing innovative technology for conservation purposes in the ArcGIS On-line platform.

If time allows, at various points in the season the technicians may also be asked to work for a few days on other MRBO field projects (such as an Ozark forest point-count project or wetland bird surveys) or assist at an education/outreach event.

#### Qualifications:

- Excellent grassland bird ID by sight and sound, with proficiency in other habitats.
- Patience for searching for hard-to-locate nests.
- A strong conservation ethic.
- Outgoing, professional demeanor with ability to interact with agency staff, private landowners and members of the general public.
- Flexibility to work within changing logistics and live in close quarters with a small group.
- Good physical condition, stamina and ability to handle hot weather, ticks, chiggers and occasional encounters with cattle on private lands.

The grassland bird breeding season is a short but intense field season where at least 6 days/week of work are needed. Some travel by personal vehicle throughout western Missouri is required. Compensation is \$1600/month DOE, mileage reimbursement for personal vehicle use at \$0.35/mile, and shared housing with all utilities. Camping may be required while on the road, which may be several nights in a row. Cost of camping and, in the case of inclement weather, motel stays will also be reimbursed. The home base housing in El Dorado Springs has internet access, clothes washer, and free access to the community recreation center.

Please send a letter of interest, resume, and contact information for three references to [dana.ripper@mrbo.org](mailto:dana.ripper@mrbo.org) with a cc to [erik.ost@mrbo.org](mailto:erik.ost@mrbo.org) and [ethan.duke@mrbo.org](mailto:ethan.duke@mrbo.org). Please address your qualifications as listed above. Deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 but applications will be reviewed as they are received.