

### **Ph.D. Assistantship – Identifying and Prioritizing Habitat for Pheasant Conservation and Management in Nebraska**

The Applied Wildlife Ecology and Spatial Movement Lab (<https://wildlifeecologylab.unl.edu/>) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln [UNL] is recruiting a Ph.D. student with a strong interest in upland game bird ecology and management. This research project will address 3 objectives: 1) determine minimum habitat thresholds and configurations necessary to support pheasant populations (i.e., define “functional habitat complex”) by examining region-specific relationships between pheasant abundance and the density of suitable pheasant habitat; 2) estimate the ‘scale of effect’ at which pheasant populations respond to spatially targeted land management and thereby assess the respective value of individual habitat patches to pheasants to aid in prioritization of future conservation efforts; and 3) forecast pheasant population densities under varying levels of suitable pheasant habitat availability using a modeling and structured decision-making (SDM) framework. The selected candidate will join a multi-disciplinary research team including multiple faculty in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission biologists.

#### **Salary**

\$26,000/year with tuition waiver (student is responsible for fees) and health insurance. Funding is available for 4 years.

#### **Start Date**

Spring 2021 (classes begin on Jan 25, 2020)

#### **Qualifications**

Applicants should have a strong interest in upland game bird ecology and management, landscape ecology, and must have completed an M.S. degree in a field related to wildlife ecology or biology. Applicants should have a GPA  $\geq 3.0$ . Applicants also should have strong quantitative skills and organizational skills, attention to detail, and excellent oral and written communication skills. Preference will be given to applicants with prior experience or training in avian survey techniques (e.g., point counts, brood surveys, etc.), landscape ecology, ArcGIS, and R statistical software.

#### **To Apply**

Applicants must create a single PDF file with the file name formatted as lastname\_firstname.pdf (e.g., doe\_john.pdf) Application document must include:

1. A cover letter that outlining your interests, research background, and career aspirations as they pertain to this position
2. Resume or Curriculum Vitae
3. Unofficial transcripts
4. Unofficial TOEFL/IELTS scores (international students only)
5. List of three professional references (name, email, phone, address)

Send file to Dr. Andrew Little ([alittle6@unl.edu](mailto:alittle6@unl.edu)). Review of applications will begin immediately and the position will remain open until filled. Formal application to UNL, including official transcripts and letters of recommendation, is required subsequent to selection of the successful candidate. For information about the School of Natural Resources, visit: <https://snr.unl.edu>. Contact Dr. Andrew Little ([alittle6@unl.edu](mailto:alittle6@unl.edu)) with general questions about the assistantship.

*The University of Nebraska is committed to a pluralistic campus community through affirmative action, equal opportunity, work-life balance, and dual careers. See <https://www.unl.edu/equity/notice-nondiscrimination>*