

Pinyon Jay Survey Field Technician

Cañon City, CO

South Dakota State University is hiring a field technician to join a collaborative team conducting breeding surveys for the imperiled Pinyon Jay in south-central Colorado from mid-February to the end of May 2024. Given the species' current consideration for listing on the ESA, this project will collect valuable information on Pinyon Jay nesting colonies, develop protocols for long-term monitoring, and assess the impacts of piñon-juniper habitat treatment projects on breeding Pinyon Jays. The team will be stationed in Cañon City, CO with housing provided and led by a graduate student from South Dakota State University. The fieldwork will entail conducting point count surveys on 2.5 km x 2.5 km plots, documenting breeding behaviors, locating and mapping nest locations, and assessing habitat. Technicians will search for new colonies following a structured point count method as well as visit already documented colonies to map nest locations, collect habitat data, define colony extent using mapping applications and GPS units, and enter data into a daily log. Technicians must be able to record detailed data on tablets using field applications, be physically capable of hiking up to 10 miles a day in rugged terrain individually and in pairs, drive a 4x4 vehicle in remote locations, and be willing to spend early cold mornings quietly observing jays.

Pay: \$17/hour with a \$200 monthly per diem and housing provided in Cañon City, CO

Schedule: 40 hours per week; base workdays Monday-Thursday with possible adjustments as needed to account for weather conditions and other scheduling needs.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Biology/Management or a similar environmental field
- Adequate patience to quietly observe birds and record behaviors
- Experience surveying in remote areas and off-trail route finding
- Physical ability to hike in steep and rugged terrain over boulders and scree fields
- Experience operating 4-wheel drive vehicles in snowy and muddy conditions on undeveloped roads
- Experience following field protocols, collecting detailed, accurate data, and entering data into field applications or approved databases
- Must work well with others and independently.
- Must be able to deal with inclement weather and maintain a positive attitude
- Must be legally eligible to work in the U.S. and have a valid U.S. driver's license

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience conducting point counts and nest searches for avian species

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Please submit a cover letter, resume/CV, and contact information for 3 references as a single PDF named "your last name_SDSU" (e.g., Macklin_SDSU) via e-mail with the subject line "Pinyon Jay – SDSU" to: Emily.Macklin@jacks.sdstate.edu. Inquiries - contact Emily Macklin via e-mail



Pinyon Jay. Photo: Winston Liu



Field Site. Photo: Emily Macklin