

Postdoctoral Research Associate: Ecological Modeling of Species Distribution Data
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut

The Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate to work on the Connecticut Bird Atlas project with [Dr Chris Elphick](#), and co-advised by [Dr Morgan Tingley](#) of the University of California-Los Angeles.

The Connecticut Bird Atlas began in 2018 and aims to map the distribution and abundance of all bird species throughout Connecticut during the breeding season, winter, and migration periods. The project has one more year of data collection, and we are ready to begin data synthesis. Primary responsibilities will include: analysis of occurrence and abundance data; integration of atlas data with previously-developed species distribution models; development of quality-control tools for volunteer-based data sets; and generation of map products. The postdoc also will contribute to the development of an online atlas describing the state's birdlife, and be expected to collaborate with project PIs to use atlas data to publish exciting research on topics of interest to the postdoc. Such work may include, but is not limited to, studies of modeling methods, spatial distribution patterns, and temporal community change. For more information about the project see www.ctbirdatlas.org.

Qualifications: Candidates must have a PhD in biology or a closely related field; experience with abundance and distribution modelling, preferably with corrections for detection and availability; a successful track record of bringing projects to publication; excellent team skills; and expertise in GIS and statistics using Arc, R, and/or Python. Preferred candidates will also have experience with: ecological "big data," such as breeding bird atlases, other volunteer-based data gathering projects, and/or eBird; manipulation and analysis of large-scale remote sensing data sets; bird identification, ecology, and distributions; web site programming; and Bayesian statistics.

To apply: This is a full-time, fixed-term position based at the Storrs campus of the University of Connecticut and includes competitive salary and health benefits; we are open to flexible arrangements in light of the ongoing pandemic. Initial funding is for one year, with the potential to renew following a satisfactory performance review after 9 months.

Review of applications will begin on 1st Feb 2021, and the position will remain open until filled; position can begin as early as 1st May 2021. Interested candidates should email chris.elphick@uconn.edu with the subject line "CT Bird Atlas postdoc" and include: (1) a one-page description of their research interests and qualifications, (2) a CV, (3) 1-2 representative publications, and (4) contact information for 3 people who can provide references.

Employment of the successful candidate is contingent upon the successful completion of a pre-employment criminal background check. All employees are subject to adherence to the State Code of Ethics which may be found at <http://www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp>.

The University of Connecticut is committed to building and supporting a multicultural and diverse community of students, faculty and staff. More than 100 research centers and institutes serve the University's teaching, research, diversity, and outreach missions, leading to UConn's ranking as one of the nation's top research universities. UConn's faculty and staff are the critical link to fostering and expanding our vibrant, multicultural and diverse University community. As an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer, UConn encourages applications from women, veterans, people with disabilities and members of traditionally underrepresented populations.