

## Position Description

### Program Director in Avian Ecology, Archbold Biological Station

[Archbold Biological Station](#) (Venus, Florida, USA) seeks an accomplished scientist for the position of Program Director in Avian Ecology, to be hired at the level of Assistant or Associate Research Biologist. This is an endowed, long-term position with competitive salary and excellent benefits. Anticipated start date is January 2023, although earlier start dates are negotiable.

The primary goal of this position is to conduct high-quality research in avian ecology. Archbold's Avian Ecology Program is home to the world-renowned, long-term (50+ years) demographic study of Florida Scrub-Jays. This is a pedigreed population spanning >15 generations and data tables are linked in a large relational database, linked to many others including spatial data (territories, nests, fires, habitats), weather, resources (oaks and acorns, insects), and genetics. Metadata exist and plans are underway to publish these data. The Program Director will be expected to lead this project, working with staff, students, research interns, and long-term collaborators, while taking the project in new directions associated with their own expertise and interests such as demographic modelling, movement ecology, behavioral ecology, communication, or disease ecology, among other suitable research areas. Research need not be limited to Florida Scrub-Jays but should leverage Archbold's long-term research projects and monitoring datasets. Research programs at Archbold benefit from core support in the form of data management, advanced GIS lab, UAV drone for research, sensor networks including radio-telemetry technology for tracking tagged individuals, advanced network communications, as well as the full range of high-quality field station facilities, field vehicles, natural history collections, and basic laboratory infrastructure.

The successful candidate's research will contribute to Archbold's four primary pillars integrating peer-reviewed science with local, regional, and global conservation priorities: (1) saving the rarest of the rare; (2) addressing climate change; (3) connecting landscapes and corridors, and (4) sustaining grasslands, ranches and working lands. These are achieved by addressing specific [strategic science priorities](#), which include conservation of biological diversity, maintaining and restoring ecosystem processes, enhancing land management, and addressing invasive species and emerging diseases.

Archbold owns and manages nearly 20,000 acres of diverse habitats serving as natural laboratories. The long-term scrub-jay study occurs in Archbold's 5,200 acres of native Florida scrub and flatwoods habitats; but research based at Archbold spans other habitats located on the endemic-rich Lake Wales Ridge and throughout the regional Headwaters of the Everglades watershed. Archbold scientists have extensive collaborations with conservationists and land managers regionally and statewide: the Avian Ecology director should have applied interests in conservation and land management. Considering Archbold's prominence as a center for fire ecology and use of prescribed fire as a research and conservation tool, fire ecology is a major focus of many historical and ongoing investigations at the Station. The Station's long-term fire management plan provides spatial and temporal variation in fire frequency, time-since-fire, and

fire severity across the landscape and provides opportunities for research across a gradient of fire. Land management practices, including prescribed fire, invasive species management, and habitat restoration, provide a rich framework for experimental applied research. The new Avian Ecologist will join other research program directors, in Agroecology, Entomology, Plant Ecology, Predator-Prey, and Restoration Ecology/Herpetology, and program directors of Conservation, Education, and Data and Technology, allowing many opportunities for internal cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The Avian Ecologist is expected to be actively engaged in education including mentoring visiting graduate students, building on Archbold's world-class post-baccalaureate research intern program, conducting public outreach, and supporting K-12 and visiting college classes. The successful candidate will contribute to Archbold's goals of fostering human diversity, equity, and inclusive opportunities for all.

The Avian Ecologist is responsible for overseeing Archbold's avian skin, skeleton, and egg collections.

As well as individual research endeavors, the director of Avian Ecology has broad responsibility for the breadth, depth, and interdisciplinary/collaborative nature of research in avian ecology, serving as the point person and host for visiting researchers in ornithology and avian ecology. The Avian Ecologist is expected to seek external funding, either individually or via collaborations, to expand research directions and enhance support for research assistants and interns.

### **Archbold Biological Station**

Archbold manages ~20,000 acres of natural laboratories: 1) the main Station is a 5,200-acre pristine Florida scrub preserve, 2) the Archbold Reserve is a diverse 3,600-acre landscape of grazing land and restored habitats, 3) Archbold's Buck Island Ranch is a 10,500-acre working cattle ranch. Archbold is a top tier, independent ecological research station located in a rural area of south-central Florida, about two hours from either coast and major cities such as Orlando, Tampa, and Miami. Archbold has a strong tradition of organismal biology, long-term data collection, fire ecology, conservation, education, and outreach. Archbold is also notable for strong collaborative connections with outside scientists, conservationists, and land managers. Our robust visiting investigator culture, seminar series, and participation in networks (e.g., GLEON, MASTIF, NutNet, USDA LTAR) are additional ways of leveraging science and enhancing engagement with the broader scientific community to increase productivity and impact.

### **Required Qualifications:**

PhD in avian or wildlife ecology, evolution, behavior, or a related field

Post-doctoral research experience

Demonstrated ability to conduct high-quality research as shown by publications, presentations, success in obtaining external funding/grants, and collaborations

Interest in conducting organismal, field-based research in avian ecology

Enthusiasm about collaborative research and synthesis projects

Ability to take advantage of legacy data collected at Archbold

Interest in research that interfaces with conservation, land management (e.g., prescribed fire, invasive species), and education

Proven effectiveness in supervising research assistants, graduate students, post-baccalaureate interns, or undergraduate students

Enthusiasm for continuing to strengthen Archbold's research internship programs

Enthusiasm about interacting with visiting scientists and the interested public

Qualifications allowing candidate to work in the United States

Experience working at a biological station or similar setting is desirable but not required

### **Required Application Materials:**

- Cover letter describing research experience and interests, including the nexus with Archbold strategic priorities
- CV or resumé
- Names and contact information for three references

### **Details**

Send required materials in a single pdf file to [shawkins@archbold-station.org](mailto:shawkins@archbold-station.org) by March 7, 2022

Candidates should be prepared for either virtual/remote and/or in-person interviews.

Visit [www.archbold-station.org](http://www.archbold-station.org) for more information on our organization

Archbold is committed to diversity and inclusion. We encourage applications from persons of underrepresented groups.

This Position Description is also posted at <https://www.archbold-station.org/html/aboutus/employ.cfm>