

Position: Research Assistant
Location: The OVEN, Dept. of Biology, Algoma University
Start Date: 15 Oct 2020 (flexible)
Completion Date: before 31 Mar 2021
Application Deadline: 7 Oct 2020 or until position is filled
Hours: 15-20/week up to 280 h total
Salary: \$18/hour



The effective conservation and management of Canada's migratory bird species requires the collection of population abundance and distribution information. Many surveys have recently adopted the use of autonomous recording units (ARUs) to supplement traditional monitoring programs conducted during the breeding season when birds are most vocal and detectable. Many researchers have begun pursuing acoustic-based studies, aimed at further understanding and improving the timing of acoustic surveys and collecting value-added information. Some studies link acoustic cues (e.g. specific vocalizations or increased singing rates) with specific temporal stages in an individual bird species' breeding phenology. While numerous studies have been conducted on acoustic cues in birds, there has never been a systematic review or synthesis of this information. Such audible cues could be useful in providing additional biological context and information to existing and future projects utilizing acoustic-only bird data, including the third edition of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas.

The OVEN (Ornithology, Vocalization, and Ecology Network) at Algoma University requires a motivated and independent recent graduate to work in the Biology Department as a research assistant. We are looking for a recent graduate to conduct a comprehensive literature search and synthesis of the current understanding of the relationships between acoustic signals and evidence of breeding activity for songbirds that breed in Ontario (< 150 species), since their songs are often more complex and vocalizations in this group have been more intensively studied than other bird groups. The position involves 1) Creating a reference list documenting scientific papers and reports consulted during detailed literature review, and 2) Synthesis of information and completion of a written report, in a format suitable for publication in a scientific journal, summarizing the relationships between acoustic signals and evidence of breeding in Ontario songbirds.

Qualifications: Minimum BSc. Honours in Biology with evidence of strong written communication skills. The following will be considered strong assets: experience in project management, science writing skills, and a knowledge of avian behaviour, ecology, and/or acoustic analysis.

Applications will be accepted until 5 October 2020. Please submit a letter of application, a resumes/Curriculum Vitae, and a sample of written by email to: jennifer.foote@algomau.ca.