

Marsh Monitoring Program Regional Coordinator Position Description

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| Organization: | Bird Studies Canada (BSC) |
| Position Title: | Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) Regional Coordinator |
| Objectives: | The MMP was established in 1995 to aid wetland conservation and restoration efforts in the United States and Canada by studying population changes and habitat requirements of marsh birds and amphibians through long-term monitoring by volunteer participants. Through a project funded by the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Environment Canada, the MMP seeks to empower dedicated individuals to volunteer their time to become regional coordinators for local MMP volunteer participants within their Great Lakes Area of Concern and surrounding watershed region. The ultimate goal of this objective is to track local environmental recovery through long-term marsh bird and amphibian population monitoring, thus providing information toward restoring the Area of Concern. |
| Duties and Responsibilities: | The coordinator role is flexible, and will involve local volunteer recruitment, training, mentoring, and support when needed. Coordinators will also work to assign volunteers to monitoring sites and track their activities. Coordinators help promote the MMP locally, such as by providing short talks about the MMP to community groups. Such tasks will be carried out with full assistance of BSC MMP staff. |
| Qualifications and Requirements: | Successful coordinators must be familiar with the bird and amphibian species likely to occur in marshes within their region, should be reasonably familiar with the wetlands in their area, and be willing to work with local conservation organizations. Regional coordinators should also have experience conducting an MMP survey, or be willing to conduct an MMP survey of their own. |
| Orientation and Training: | Successful applicants will be invited to attend a regional MMP coordinator orientation workshop, which will provide background about the MMP, its monitoring protocols, and coordinators' tasks and responsibilities. A second, outdoor field training session will later provide coordinators with additional skills. Coordinators will be formally certified at the latter event. A package will be provided containing all materials needed for program advertisement and public relations, for MMP volunteer training, and for MMP volunteer monitoring support. BSC will offer to reimburse costs to attend these events for those committed to carrying out coordinator duties. |
| Times Needed and Place of Work: | Regional coordinators need to be willing to donate at least 15-20 hours or more each year. Additional hours may be needed during their first year as coordinators become oriented with the program. Coordinators will work from home, with periodic local travel when required. |
| Commitment Required: | Periodically throughout the year, but primarily during mid-winter through early summer, annually. Regional coordinators will need a personal vehicle, CD player as well as access to a computer, internet and email. |
| Selection Process | BSC staff will select 1-2 regional coordinators per Area of Concern region. Successful applicants will be invited to attend their regional MMP coordinator orientation session. |
| Benefits: | This is a volunteer position. Coordinators will receive a set bursary for mileage and out-of-pocket expenses as well as a reference if needed. This is a unique and rewarding opportunity to engage local citizens in rewarding activities that contribute directly to environmental recovery efforts in your local Area of Concern region, and to knowledge and conservation of one of North America's most threatened ecosystems. |

