Ph.D Graduate Research Assistantship at Kansas State University – Movements, Space Use, and Vital Rates of Mourning Doves

Location: Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Position Description: Dr. David Haukos (Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit) and Richard Schultheis (Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks) are seeking a graduate student to pursue an Ph.D degree in the Division of Biology at Kansas State University [https://www.k-state.edu/biology/; https://www.k-state.edu/kscfwrul] to study movements, space use, and vital rates of mourning doves on state wildlife management areas, rural private lands, and urban ecosystems. This research project will use VHF telemetry to focus on understanding factors related to mourning dove population trends in Kansas, including demographic variability among public areas managed for dove hunting, rural private lands, and urban areas. Secondary objectives would be an assessment of changes in movements and space use during the hunting season. The successful applicant will be encouraged to develop an additional objective related to analyses of banding data. This project is funded and in collaboration with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks as a grant that includes 3 years of field work and 4 years of Graduate Research Assistantship funding at approximately $2500/month plus reimbursement of tuition and basic medical coverage while enrolled. Field work will be throughout Kansas, with supervision of up to 9 technicians.

Qualifications: Applicants must have the following: 1) a strong academic background, including a completed M.S. by fall 2022, in wildlife management, vertebrate ecology, or a closely related field; 2) field experience conducting wildlife telemetry studies in remote areas with potential for inclement weather in collaboration with state agencies and private landowners; and 3) a strong interest or experience in population demographics. Preference will be given to applicants with a strong quantitative background, experience working with transmittered birds, and willingness to initiate a pilot study as a seasonal technician during summer 2022. The successful applicant will be expected to enroll at Kansas State University in August 2022. Kansas State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help achieve a diverse and inclusive community.

To apply, please email a cover letter, copies of academic records (unofficial transcripts), a CV that details of your academic qualifications and field experiences, and the names and contact numbers for 3 references to Dr. David Haukos (dhaustok@ksu.edu). The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.