



Volunteer Position Description: Bird Surveying

Report To: Regional Natural Resource Steward

Goal of Position: Gather baseline bird data or monitor known populations of rare birds in select areas of the park. We hope to gather additional information like the quality of the natural community they are occurring in, presence of invasive plants and other features whenever possible.

Timeframe: Late May thru Mid July (some surveys start earlier [mid April] or continue later [thru late September])

Time Required: Time varies by location and the site you are surveying, but please plan for a minimum of 3-7 hrs per site per visit.

Equipment Needed: Site map, datasheets, GPS unit to mark monitoring locations (provided by Stewardship Unit, as needed).

Position Requirements:

- Ability to work independently.
- Know how to identify birds by call or sight for the ecosystem to be surveyed.
- Record bird sightings on datasheet (point count) or make a list of species.
- Know how to use a GPS unit to locate existing points or mark species locations
- For monitoring, mark locations with a GPS unit. If GPS is not available, locations may be recorded using highlighters or markers on park brochures and/or aerial photos.
- Complete and email required project paperwork and data by August 31st.
- Ability to comfortably walk/hike long distances occasionally, depending on site.
- Ability to work in variable, sometimes adverse site conditions (biting insects, mud, etc.)

How will a volunteer benefit from this position?

Volunteer Stewards can take pride in protecting our natural resources for future generations! Individual volunteers also have the flexibility to do so on their own schedule while enjoying fresh air, exercise and the reward of protecting our native landscapes. Volunteers will assist the DNR in natural resource management and become more familiar with their favorite parks and recreation areas while gaining valuable experience.

How will this help our state parks and recreation areas?

By surveying and monitoring bird populations, volunteers help us identify critical habitat for rare bird species, document the reoccurrence of rare species, and provide information to guide management decisions for ecosystem restoration. The Stewardship Unit focuses on restoring Michigan's unique ecosystems and preserving our native species. Volunteers can have a big impact on sustaining these natural resources for future generations to enjoy.