

**Utah State University and USGS Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center
Postdoctoral Fellow II in Quantitative Ecology**



Location: Utah State University, Logan, UT

Salary: \$62,000-65,000/yr depending on experience, plus benefits

Start Date: May-August 2025 preferred, but flexible

Position Summary

We seek a Postdoctoral Fellow II in Quantitative Ecology to join the 2025-2027 [Future of Species Range Shifts](#) cohort as part of the Climate Adaptation Postdoctoral (CAP) Fellows Program, hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey Climate Adaptation Science Centers. This postdoctoral research scholar will be located in the [Utah State University Department of Wildland Resources](#). The successful applicant will conduct research related to *range shifts of Southwestern birds in response to environmental change*, as well as join eight other postdocs from around the country to conduct a national synthesis project related to species range shifts.

Primary Research Duties and Required Skills

This is a two-year position studying how abundance distributions of Southwestern bird species have shifted over time. The goals of this project are: 1) determine how Southwestern bird species' abundance ranges have shifted over the past ~20 years; 2) understand how these population trends vary within the core, leading-, and trailing-edges of their range; and 3) evaluate how these trends are related to environmental change, including climate, fire, and drought. The successful applicant will use long-term observational data collected by the Breeding Bird Survey, Integrated Monitoring of Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program; and the eBird data platform. The focus of the project will be to build novel Bayesian statistical models to analyze shifts in bird populations over space and time. The project also includes opportunities for engaging with collaborators and managers at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The position includes travel to national synthesis meetings, meetings with cooperators/partners, and conferences.

The position will ideally be located in Logan, UT, on the main campus of Utah State University, but fully remote-work will be considered for exceptional candidates within the U.S. This is a full-time, Postdoctoral Fellow position with salary depending on experience (~\$62,000-65,000 per year), and includes full benefits (13 paid holidays, 22 days of paid leave and 12 days of sick leave per year, competitive health benefits packages, and a fully-vested 14.2% employer retirement contribution). This Postdoctoral position will be available for an initial duration of one year with potential for extension for a second year depending on performance.

USU Collaborators: [Dr. T.J. Clark-Wolf](#), USU Department of Wildland Resources; and [Dr. Erica Stuber](#), USGS UT Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Minimum Qualifications

- Applicants must have a PhD in Ecology, Biology, or a related field with a strong quantitative background
- Evidence of creativity, productivity, and strong oral/written communication skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with agency, non-profit, and academic scientists

Preferred Qualifications

- Background in Bayesian statistics, implemented in JAGS, Nimble, Stan, etc.
- Proficiency in ecological modeling, data analysis, and working with large datasets
- Record of success conducting research, evidenced by publication in peer-reviewed journals

To Apply:

Submit all application materials here: <<https://careers-usu.icims.com/jobs/8810/job>>

Please include: 1) your CV, 2) a maximum 2-page cover letter indicating how you meet the qualifications of the position, why you are interested in this position specifically, how this position might support your career goals, and why you might be a good fit for this project, and 3) contact information for three (3) professional references willing to provide letters of reference. Letters will only be requested for a short-list of applicants.

We will begin reviewing on February 24, 2025 and leave open the position until filled.

Questions about this position can be directed to: T.J. Clark-Wolf: [t.j.clark-wolf <at> usu.edu](mailto:t.j.clark-wolf@usu.edu)

About the Climate Adaptation Postdoctoral (CAP) Fellows Program

The U.S. Geological Survey Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs) are building the next generation of science leaders through the [Climate Adaptation Postdoctoral \(CAP\) Fellows Program](#). The CAP Fellows Program sponsors cohorts of post-doctoral researchers for two-years to conduct regional-to-national scale analyses of emerging climate research needs centered around one theme. The unifying theme for this cohort is the **Future of Species Range Shifts**. The program will include nine postdoctoral fellows distributed across the country, with one fellow based in each of the [nine Regional CASCs](#). Each postdoctoral candidate will work with their PI(s) and associated leaders in the field to lead a regionally relevant project pertaining to the mechanisms and implications of climate-mediated range shifts.

Concurrently with the regional project, the Fellows will participate in an independent national-scale synthesis effort on the cohort's unifying theme, the Future of Species Range Shifts, and gain valuable experience in collaborative research. While the national synthesis topic may relate to the regional research projects, it will typically address nationally pressing research questions related to the cohort topic; synthesize the state of the science on the cohort topic across all CASC regions; and advance our understanding of management-relevant applications of this information. Fellows will conduct much of the national synthesis effort at four in-person workshops, attended by Fellows, facilitators, and other subject matter experts. Two of these

workshops are hosted in Santa Barbara, CA by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), a partner of the CAP Fellows Program who provides varied support for the Fellows throughout their program tenure.

As part of the CAP Fellow Program, postdocs will receive extensive training and mentorship on three core areas crucial for their success during the Fellowship and in their future careers: 1) Team Science, 2) Synthesis Science, and 3) Actionable Science. Many of these skills are not taught during standard graduate school curriculums or conventional postdoc positions.

Fellows should expect to devote approximately 80% of their time to their regional projects, and the remaining 20% of their time to the national synthesis effort and professional training.

About Utah State University

Utah State University is a Research I (Extensive Doctoral) land-grant institution with a student body of over 24,000, 8 academic colleges, a school of Graduate Studies, and diverse research programs. The main campus is located in Logan, a community of 100,000 people. Logan is 85 miles north of Salt Lake City in scenic Cache Valley, a semi-rural mountain basin with nearby ski resorts, lakes, rivers, and mountains providing many recreational opportunities. The area has a low cost of living and provides a high quality of life. [Learn more](#) about Logan, UT.

We are committed to cultivating a [diverse, equitable, and inclusive community](#) where different perspectives, values, cultures, and identities are acknowledged, welcomed, and valued. We seek to recruit, hire, and retain people from all walks of life who will champion excellence in education, research, discovery, outreach, and service. We believe that promoting a strong sense of community and belonging empowers and engages all members of USU to thrive and be successful. [Learn more](#) about USU.

