Natural Resources Job Board

OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Wildlife Research Specialist (wild turkeys)

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (State) |
https://www.iowadnr.gov/

Details

Application Deadline:	07/01/2026
Published:	05/12/2026
Starting Date:	between 5/25/2026 and 7/13/2026
Ending Date:	between 5/25/2027 and 7/13/2027
Hours per Week:	40
Salary:	$35,961 per year
Education Required:	Bachelors
Experience Required:	none
Location:	9726 Co Rd X61 (Wapello, Iowa)

species conservation? The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) is partnering with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to hire one (1) Wildlife Research Specialist positions to assist with a long-term wild turkey research project in southeast Iowa.

In 2021, the DNR began a 10-year study to investigate wild turkey population declines in Iowa. The project spans various areas of turkey ecology, including population demographics, nest success, hen and brood survival, genetics, habitat selection, predation, and avian diseases.

Under supervision of DNR wildlife research staff, this positions will serve as a co-field coordinator for turkey research across four study areas, which includes a diversity of field and office tasks. Successful candidates must possess excellent outdoors skills for collecting detailed and accurate field data, as well as, quantitative and spatial analysis skills to monitor bird locations, maintain databases, and produce professional reports for staff and partners.

Primary tasks for these positions include monitoring the daily movements, survival, and nest fates for GPS-marked wild turkeys; collecting eggs and carcasses, contacting private landowners, and assisting with wild turkey winter captures. Additionally, throughout the year these positions will assist other DNR wildlife staff with various other projects as interests and time allow, including prescribed fires; Canada goose, wood duck, and mourning dove banding; CWD sampling of white-tailed deer, and general habitat management work. The Iowa DNR is a diverse agency and successful candidates are encouraged to participate in additional professional opportunities and field work as available.

Salary: Starting salary is $35,961 per year, based on education and experience. Through WMI, positions are eligible for health insurance, 401(k) retirement benefits, workers' compensation, general liability protection, professional liability protection, and unemployment insurance benefits.

WMI and the DNR, but stationed within the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Research Section with daily supervision by Iowa DNR staff.

Starting Date: Early summer (late-May or early-June), 2026, but may be flexible as needed.

Duty Station/Location: The duty station will be located at either the Odessa Wildlife Unit headquarters in Wapello, Iowa (preferred), or Maquoketa Wildlife Unit headquarters in Green Island, Iowa.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must possess a valid driver's license with a clean driving record
- A BS in Wildlife Ecology or a related field (MS preferred)
- A positive attitude and a passion for wildlife conservation
- Ability to work successfully in both extreme field conditions and office settings
- Possess a strong work ethic

Desired Skills:

- Experience tracking wild animals using radio telemetry equipment
- Experience working with large datasets and database programs
- Experience conducting wildlife field surveys and research in difficult environmental conditions
- Experience with data analysis in Program R
- Experience with ArcGIS programs, including ArcMap, ArcGIS Pro, and Field Maps
- Experience with trapping and handling of wildlife
- Strong organization and communication skills
- Ability to contact and maintain working relationships with private landowners
- Ability to work and complete field and office tasks independently
- Ability to work with and coordinate field work with DNR staff, partner agencies, and NGOs
- Ability and willingness to work long hours, weekends, and holidays, particularly during nesting seasons

Employer Login

Primary Job Duties:

· Download GPS locations and process data using ArcGIS and Program R
· Monitor turkey movements and survival using radio telemetry and GIS techniques
· Monitor nest incubation and investigate nest fates, including on weekends and holidays
· Investigate turkey mortalities
· Complete vegetation surveys at nest sites and paired random points
· Conduct flush counts with turkey broods
· Collect and preserve biological samples, including eggs and carcasses
· Collaborate with the project lead(s) and provide regular updates
· Work as part of a diverse team to capture and mark female wild turkeys
· Compile basic updates and statistical analyses from data collected during surveys
· Produce high-quality reports and/or peer-reviewed manuscripts as time allows or according to interests
· Routine equipment organization and preparation, and vehicle and facility maintenance
· Collaborate with DNR staff and external partners, such as academic institutions and NGO's

To apply, please send one document containing a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references to Dan Kaminski (wildlife research biologist) at dan.kaminski@dnr.iowa.gov.

Applications due by July 1, 2026 or until a qualified applicant is selected.

Contact

Dan Kaminski
5153800190
dan.kaminski@dnr.iowa.gov (preferred contact method)

Employer Login

A MEMBER OF
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service | Texas A&M AgriLife Research | Texas A&M Forest Service | Texas A&M AgriLife Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab | College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

495 Horticulture Road, College Station, TX 77843

(979) 845-5033

© 2026 Texas A&M University. All rights reserved.