



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Outcomes of urban conservation efforts for birds – MSc or PhD at Carleton University

Birds in urban environments face many preventable human-driven threats: from cat predation to noise and light pollution to collisions with windows. As such, an increasing number of nature-based programs aim to create habitat and minimize threats for birds in urban spaces. Assessing the outcomes of urban bird management practices remains a key challenge. Nature Canada's [Bird Friendly Cities program](#) works with nature groups, municipal officials, and other community groups to certify cities that are committed to conservation action for birds.

Your role

We are looking for an MSc or PhD student to join an exciting, collaborative team of researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners from Carleton University, Nature Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the [Canadian Centre for Evidence-based Synthesis](#). The student will lead a systematic review to explore the outcomes of conservation actions (e.g., window decals, cat bylaws) on different avian population metrics and other outreach-related indicators. The results from this project will help measure the progress of Bird Friendly Cities and contribute to a framework for urban bird conservation across Canada. The student will play a key role in collaborating across organizations. The student will have an opportunity to learn to co-develop scientific research, conduct evidence synthesis, produce open methods of analysis, and improve conservation policy and practice.

The position start date is September 2023. The student will be supervised by Dr. Rachel Buxton, with close collaboration with Dr. Barbara Frei, Ted Chesky and others.

Selection Criteria

Essential Skills and Qualifications

1. An undergraduate degree in ecology, conservation science, environmental science, geography, or related field. Relevant work related experience will also be considered.
2. An ability to critically evaluate scientific papers.
3. Strong research, leadership, and communication skills.
4. Inter-personal skills.
5. Enthusiasm and kindness.
6. A desire to make the world a better place for people and nature.

Desirable Skills



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1. Experience working with systematic review.
2. Coding skills in R and/or Python.

Application details

Applicants should send the following to Rachel Buxton (Rachel.Buxton@carleton.ca) by December 20: 1) Letter of interest summarizing your experience; 2) Curriculum Vitae; 3) Contact details for three references; and 4) University transcripts (unofficial are fine). **Please use the subject line Bird Friendly Cities application.**

Carleton University is committed to fostering diversity within its community as a source of excellence, cultural enrichment, and social strength. We welcome those who would contribute to the further diversification of our university including, but not limited to: First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples; women; visible minorities; persons with disabilities; and persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression. Carleton understands that career paths vary. Legitimate career interruptions will in no way prejudice the assessment process and their impact will be taken into careful consideration.

About Carleton University

Carleton University is a dynamic and innovative research and teaching institution with a national and international reputation as a leader in collaborative teaching and learning, research and governance. With over 29,000 students, 950 academic faculty, and 2,000 staff and more than 100 programs of study, we encourage creative risk-taking enabling minds to connect, discover and generate transformative knowledge. Carleton University is located in Ottawa, Canada's capital city, which has a population of almost one million and reflects the country's bilingual and multicultural character.