

## **PhD and MASTERS POSITIONS IN PRAIRIE BIRD CONSERVATION**

The Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba is seeking graduate students for two or more research projects on the conservation of prairie songbirds. Students will be expected to start as field technicians or graduate students in May 2013, perhaps negotiable. Both projects are large and include multiple graduate students.

### **Effects of oil development and noise on prairie songbirds**

Research will address effects of oil wells on abundance, nesting success and behavioural ecology of songbirds with a special focus on effects of infrastructure noise. The project will include a large-scale experimental component. Research will take place in Alberta.

### **Effects of cattle stocking rates on prairie songbirds and their ecosystems**

Research will address effects of livestock stocking rates, and removal of livestock, on abundance and species composition of plants and songbirds. The project is based on a large-scale manipulative experiment. Research will take place in southern Saskatchewan.

Masters positions will be within the 2-year Masters of Natural Resources Management program, and the Ph.D. position will be within the Ph.D. of Environmental and Natural Resources Management program, at the internationally recognized Natural Resources Institute at the University of Manitoba. These are interdisciplinary programs designed to prepare students to either enter the workforce or continue academic research upon graduation. In addition to the ecology component, courses cover conservation biology, economic, social, policy, and legal issues relevant to natural resources and environmental management and conservation. More information on the academic programs can be found at [http://umanitoba.ca/institutes/natural\\_resources/](http://umanitoba.ca/institutes/natural_resources/).

Applicants should be prepared to demonstrate background and interest in avian or prairie ecology and conservation, plus strong research potential and academic background. **For both projects, applicants eligible for NSERC PGS scholarship funding ([http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/BellandPostgrad-BelletSuperieures\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/BellandPostgrad-BelletSuperieures_eng.asp)) and who have applied for an NSERC scholarship in September 2012 will be preferred. Therefore, students who are interested in these positions should contact Dr. Koper for more information immediately, and should be prepared to apply for the NSERC scholarship in September 2012.**

However, there may also be stipend/scholarship funding available for students who do not receive NSERC scholarships, pending funding. Applicants eligible for an *Industrial* NSERC (IPS) program (GPA over last 2 full-time years B+ or higher; please see [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/IPS-BESII\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/IPS-BESII_eng.asp) for more information) may be preferred.

Apply with CV, unofficial transcripts, writing sample (e.g. essay / manuscript), and 3 references (email and phone numbers) to Dr. Nicola Koper at [koper@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:koper@cc.umanitoba.ca). More information about Dr. Koper's lab can be found at [www.conserveprairiebirds.org](http://www.conserveprairiebirds.org) or by emailing Dr. Koper.