

LEAST TERN SURVEY COORDINATOR

Indiana Division of Fish, Wildlife, & Nature Preserves

Location: Bloomington, IN

Term: full-time, intermittent (180 days)

Pay rate: \$13.50/hour

Anticipated Start Date: March 16, 2026

Anticipated End Date: September 23, 2026, with the possibility for extension.

Description: This position is stationed at the Indiana Division of Fish, Wildlife, & Nature Preserves (DFWNP) Bloomington Field Office and is responsible for the implementation of an ongoing least tern nest survey and monitoring program at three sites in southern Indiana. The position will also assist ornithologists with various research projects. Specific duties include:

Survey Preparation & Fieldwork

- Independently monitor least tern nesting colonies, which may include surveying for adults, nests, eggs, chicks, and fledglings. Also, work with agency partners and contractors on an as needed basis.
- Coordinate access to field sites with land managers and follow site safety regulations, including wearing proper personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Develop an appropriate nest checking schedule that abides by site safety regulations.
- Set up and maintain field sites and equipment. This may include repairing fencing (electric and chain-link), setting out chick shelters, deploying camera traps, and maintaining decoys and camera traps.
- Survey nesting colonies using drone technology.

Office Duties

- Write ongoing reports summarizing findings regarding least tern nesting season progress.
- Write an end-of-season report summarizing least tern nesting season findings.
- Assist with customer inquiries that include, but are not limited to bald eagle nest reports, human-wildlife conflicts, species identification, etc.
- Assist with equipment and vehicle maintenance.
- Assist with bird survey data entry and verification.
- Assist with education and outreach opportunities.
- Assist with volunteer paperwork.

Preferred Experience: Applicants must have excellent interpersonal skills, be very organized and detail oriented, and have previous experience in wildlife work. Safety training and training in the monitoring protocol (including drone piloting) will be provided.

Additional Information: Duties are performed in an office locale and in a variety of field environments that may require enduring difficult habitats (industrial power plants) and exposure to adverse conditions (heat, rain, biting or stinging insects, poisonous plants). Applicant must be able to work independently and in a team setting. Workdays are variable but will typically occur on weekdays with frequent early mornings during the field season. Applicant must provide their own transportation to and from the DFW Bloomington Field Office; travel to and from field sites will be provided using a state vehicle. The applicant will also work on other projects related to nongame and game wildlife. This is an excellent opportunity for recent graduates to gain experience working for a wildlife and natural resource agency.

Application Process: Email a cover letter and current resume or CV with three references to Allisyn Gillet, State Ornithologist [agillet (at) dnr.in.gov] by **Feb 27, 2026**. Please label the e-mail as "Least Tern Survey Coordinator." Please submit any questions to Allisyn Gillet at the email address noted above or 812-822-3400.