

**TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**Engagement Program**

TITLE: Conservation Advocate

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt, Full Time

REPORTS TO: Executive Director

DATE REVIEWED: February 2017

SUMMARY: The Conservation Advocate acts as a point of contact for Tucson Audubon's staff, board, conservation committee, members, external organizations and agencies, legislative offices and the public on conservation threats to birds and wildlife in southeast Arizona. Researches, interprets and disseminates information on actions that pose a threat to birds and wildlife; develops Tucson Audubon's response to these threats and communicates TAS' position to its audiences and to those to ameliorate threats. Leverages TAS membership to influence decision makers. The Conservation Advocate contributes to proactive conservation and conservation planning initiatives, and leverages other Tucson Audubon programs and partnerships to accomplish shared conservation goals and objectives.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- With the Executive Director and Tucson Audubon Conservation Consultant, determine, recommend and prioritize conservation issues;
- Work with the Executive Director and Conservation Consultant, in communication with the Conservation Advocacy Committee, to determine those issues on which Tucson Audubon will take the lead, those which Tucson Audubon will actively support, and those issues which Tucson Audubon will provide support when asked by other groups;
- Staffs the Conservation Advocacy Committee and works with the committee to execute actions and activities to engage membership and the public with Tucson Audubon concerns;
- Works to develop consensus within staff and board regarding science and policy; meet with key staff regularly to develop actions and messaging;
- Informs colleagues, policy makers, managers, and the public regarding threats to birds and other wildlife, as well as identifies opportunities to avoid, minimize and mitigate those threats;
- Informs colleagues, policy makers, managers, and the public regarding proactive opportunities to achieve bird and wildlife conservation and to further science-based conservation;
- Tracks legislative actions at regional, state and national levels that affect birds, Important Bird Areas and riparian areas in Arizona;
- Develops and maintains positive, ongoing relationships with elected officials, helping them understand the effects of proposed legislation on birds, wildlife and the human environment;
- Works creatively with Tucson Audubon membership to engage and build advocacy for the conservation and restoration of bird and wildlife habitat, motivating them to act on behalf of issues of importance;

- Works cooperatively with conservation groups and builds coalitions that further Tucson Audubon conservation efforts, including addressing regional and national conservation issues pertaining to birds and habitat conservation, disseminating information appropriately to membership and partner organizations;
- Evaluates and critiques actions that may jeopardize birds and/or bird habitat, laws and regulations from a scientific and legal perspective; consults with scientific and legal experts as needed;
- Develops written materials such as newsletter articles, whitepapers, conservation action alerts, technical comments, and Tucson Audubon opinions on priority conservation issues, and takes the lead in writing conservation focused articles for each issue of the Vermilion Flycatcher;
- Develops a conservation advocacy member group, which includes teaching, training and tracking volunteer efforts that support Tucson Audubon conservation positions through activities such as speaking, testifying, writing or reporting;
- Develops the Conservation Action section of the Tucson Audubon website;
- At the request of the ED, may write press releases or opinion-editorial pieces on public campaign issues;
- Researches and assists in developing grant opportunities to fund conservation actions, the activities inherent to conservation and/or the Conservation Advocate position.

#### OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Meets with prospective donors and foundation representatives, as deemed appropriate by the Executive Director and Resource Development Director;
- Supports other Tucson Audubon events as requested by the Executive Director; required to support and participate in primary Tucson Audubon functions, such as Tucson Meet Your Birds, Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival, membership annual holiday event.

#### SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY:

This position does not have directly reporting staff, although this position may oversee intern and volunteer activities.

#### WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

- This position operates mainly from the office space located at the Mason Center, and may require travel to off-site locations for meetings, public hearings and conferences as needed.
- Employee needs to be able to lift up to 40 lbs. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit, use hands on a keyboard, mouse, phone or other tool required to complete work; reach with hands and arms, talk and hear, stand, walk and hike.

#### EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, COMPETENCIES REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's Degree required;
- Understanding of and commitment to the organization's mission, goals, and values;

- In depth knowledge of federal, state and local laws and regulations governing natural resource and wildlife conservation and management;
- Knowledge of conservation biology principles, practices, methodologies and terminology;
- Experience working within a non-profit organization;
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills;
- Ability to write clearly for both the general public and more scientifically advanced audiences;
- Strong working knowledge of, and comfort with, internet use, e-mail, Microsoft Word, Power Point and Excel;
- An interest in birds, natural history, and wildlife conservation.
- Ability to speak in front of varied audiences to represent Tucson Audubon's positions, or to give presentations on conservation topics;
- Community outreach experience related to advocacy;
- Ability to prioritize competing priorities and manage time accordingly.
- Experience working in conjunction with government agencies and academic institutions preferred.
- Proficiency with ArcGIS and mapping skills strongly preferred.
- Valid Arizona Driver's License

This job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities and details required for each duty listed above. Detailed work plans should be developed with the manager and designed around the duties listed above and should address program and organizational goals.

Tucson Audubon Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer

TO APPLY: Please go to

<https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=c6f412ed4ce61e61&q=tucson+audubon&l=Tucson%2C+AZ&tk=1baamqodr1c1p4br&from=web>