

Quantitative Ecology Postdoctoral Researcher Michigan State University

The Zipkin Quantitative Ecology Lab seeks a postdoctoral scholar to work with a team of researchers on [an NSF funded project](#) to develop ‘integrated community models’, a statistical modeling framework to unite multi-species data sources to estimate the status, trends, and dynamics of biodiversity. The project’s goal is to create a flexible infrastructure for estimating species and community processes that can incorporate multiple data types on multiple species. The postdoctoral scholar will develop: 1) simulations evaluating the benefits gained by integrating common data types collected on multiple species, and 2) one or more empirical case studies on birds, small mammals, and/or butterfly communities. The richness of the available datasets - and potential ecological questions that can be investigated - allow for ample ability to explore many avenues of research and we seek a researcher with enthusiasm to pursue related projects that interests them. The postdoctoral scholar will work collaboratively with the PI (Elise Zipkin) and other postdocs and graduate students in the lab to develop models, carry out analyses, and write manuscripts.

Qualifications: Applicants must hold a PhD in ecology, biology, statistics, or a related field by the start of the position. Applicants are expected to have a strong background in mathematical and/or statistical modeling, ecology, and experience publishing scientific research. Knowledge of program R is required. Candidates with experience in Bayesian hierarchical analysis, integrated modeling, programming with JAGS and/or NIMBLE, and collaborative research are especially encouraged to apply.

The Zipkin lab values diversity and is committed to creating a welcoming and supportive environment. Michigan State is an excellent place to be a postdoc, with a favorable cost-of-living to salary ratio, as well as 66 other labs in the Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior (EEB) program. The position is based in East Lansing, MI but remote location will be considered while the covid pandemic is ongoing. The postdoc will have opportunities to attend workshops and conferences and become involved in other lab projects. This is a full-time, 12-month, fixed-term position, with reappointment conditional on satisfactory performance. The start date is flexible, ideally sometime during 2021.

To apply, submit a single PDF on [CAREERS @ MSU](#) (Job no: 685967) with the following documents: 1) a cover letter (2-pg max) with research interests and qualifications for this position, 2) current CV, 3) contact information for 2-3 references, and 4) a recent first-authored publication. Applications will be reviewed starting January 27, 2021 but the position will remain open until filled.

Please direct questions to ezipkin@msu.edu. More information on the lab and our research is available here: <https://ezipkin.github.io/>.