



## **BIOLOGIST ASSISTANT**

Help Endangered Birds! The Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) is now hiring seasonal, part-time field assistants to help manage Brown-headed Cowbird traps within areas of Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties. Brown-headed Cowbirds are brood parasites, meaning they do not build their own nests and lay their eggs in the nests of other species. In doing so, cowbirds can have an adverse effect on the reproductive success of native bird species. SAWA is especially interested in improving the nesting success of the Least Bell's Vireo, a Federal and State endangered bird that breeds in southern California. Trapping cowbirds during the breeding season is not only helping the Least Bell's Vireo population numbers increase, but most likely those of other native songbirds.

### **JOB DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES**

Assistants are assigned a route of 5-10 traps and visit each trap on the route on their assigned work days. Routes typically take 3-4 hours per afternoon to complete, but can take up to 6-7 hours depending on how many traps/routes an assistant is assigned. Assistants will learn about vireos, cowbirds, and other avian species and natural resources in the area.

- Work up to five afternoons a week (may include weekends), from mid-March/beginning of April through mid-July 2025
- SAWA biologists will train assistants in general bird identification and trapping procedures
- Identify and release non-target birds, replenish food and water, clean water containers, and record the number and species of birds in the trap.
- Must be able to collect accurate data
- Must own and operate a reliable car and provide proof of insurance
- Must have personal cell phone
- Must pass pre-employment background check and physical/ drug test
- All employees must follow SAWA's designated safety procedures

### **SALARY**

\$17.00/hour plus mileage reimbursed at the federal rate of \$0.70/mile

If you are interested in a rewarding position that offers field experience and flexible hours, please send your resume to Jennette El Morsy at [jennette@sawatershed.org](mailto:jennette@sawatershed.org) by February 21, 2025. If you would like additional information regarding duties of this position please contact Allyson Beckman at [abeckman@sawatershed.org](mailto:abeckman@sawatershed.org).