



Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

September 10, 2013

Ph.D. Assistantship – Bat Migration in Nebraska. The Nebraska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit (<http://snr.unl.edu/necoopunit/>) is recruiting a PhD student to study bat movements in eastern Nebraska. Acoustic sampling will be used to focus on phenology and effects of land use and land cover. This project is closely associated with the Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project (<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/>). The graduate project is fully funded with a salary of \$18,000 year + tuition remission and health insurance. Review of applications will begin September 15, 2013. Position will start January 6, 2014.

For more information: <http://wfscjobs.tamu.edu/jobs/graduate-assistabtship-bat-migration-in-nebraska/>

Around Nebraska...

Wind Energy and Wildlife: Nebraska Strives for Coexistence. Wind energy development has increased substantially in the United States in recent years, from 2,742 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity in 1999 to more than 60,000 MW in 2012. You might expect that the windiest states would be the ones making the greatest strides in harnessing this renewable energy resource, but that isn't always the case. (<http://science.kqed.org/quest/2013/08/21/wind-energy-and-wildlife-nebraska-strives-for-coexistence/>).

Whirlwind of construction on horizon for Diller/Steele City area. Contractors for NextEra Energy Resources, owner of the wind farm, have been laying the groundwork since late June for 44 wind turbines. Each will be about 422 feet high and will go up in southwest Gage and southeast Jefferson counties. (http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/whirlwind-of-construction-on-horizon-for-diller-steele-city-area/article_da04b206-7320-5e08-b2aa-f992336ff481.html).

Wind energy jobs blow in with the breeze, boost business in Nebraska. For some Siouxland residents the wind means more than just something to cool them down on a hot summer day. Wind farms

are at the front of the alternative energy movement and they have now become a viable resource of power for northeast Nebraskans. As construction continues on a wind farm just outside of Elgin the residents could not be more excited for the continued boost for their local economy.

(<http://www.ktiv.com/story/23373791/2013/09/08/wind-energy-jobs-blow-in-with-the-breeze-boost-local-business-in-nebraska>).

[Small wind farm project with big ambitions in Burt County](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/small-wind-farm-project-with-big-ambitions-in-burt-county/article_f7de8ae6-2bdd-55d9-b7ed-5451d2470cbf.html). Some small towns and counties dream of having wind turbines to provide clean, renewable energy and as a hedge against high electric bills. Few take the initiative to try to make their dream a reality. Burt County Wind LLC may be the exception. (http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/small-wind-farm-project-with-big-ambitions-in-burt-county/article_f7de8ae6-2bdd-55d9-b7ed-5451d2470cbf.html).

[In Nebraska, farmers hope to take control of wind production](http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/08/27/in-nebraska-farmers-hope-to-take-control-of-wind-production/). A group of Nebraska farmers are attempting to put a new face on renewable power in their state. If they succeed in persuading a utility to buy their power, they will be the first local owner-producers in Nebraska to generate electricity with wind turbines on their land, and to sell it to a utility for distribution. (<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/08/27/in-nebraska-farmers-hope-to-take-control-of-wind-production/>).

[Local View: Other utilities should buy wind energy](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/local-view-other-utilities-should-buy-wind-energy/article_72391b93-57fa-556a-a82d-a56115fa1318.html). The Midwest gains a lot from investing in wind energy. It is a homegrown resource, and it's abundant -- Nebraska ranks third in the nation for wind energy potential. (http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/local-view-other-utilities-should-buy-wind-energy/article_72391b93-57fa-556a-a82d-a56115fa1318.html).

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[Clearer Rules On Mitigation Needed To Boost Renewable Energy Projects](http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/dynamic/article.page.php?page_id=9879&action=news_articles&eod=1). The Obama administration's pledge to ramp up renewable energy can be accomplished only if it is in coordination with the mitigation efforts for habitat and species impacts. But right now mitigation rules are a patchwork of good, bad, and just plain confusing. Here is a rundown on the complex state of compensatory mitigation and renewable development. (http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/dynamic/article.page.php?page_id=9879&action=news_articles&eod=1).

[Wildlife groups, wind industry meet on eagle permit rule](http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/320545-wildlife-groups-wind-industry-meet-on-eagle-permit-rule-). Wildlife advocates and proponents of wind energy visited the White House, meeting with the Obama administration over a regulation that would extend the length of permits that allow energy companies to unintentionally kill protected eagles. (<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/320545-wildlife-groups-wind-industry-meet-on-eagle-permit-rule->).

[Wind Turbines do not Negatively Affect Nest Success in the Dickcissel \(Spiza americana\)](#). Proliferation of wind energy across the Great Plains of the United States has the potential to

negatively affect many grassland birds through displacement, avoidance, or changes in nesting ecology. (<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1525/auk.2013.12187?af=R&>).

[Eagles vs. wind farms: Osage Nation wins round.](#) The Osage Nation appears to have struck a blow in a fight against a wind farm ready for construction in Osage County. Arguing that the wind farm could kill eagles that nest nearby - an important bird to the Osage culture as well as American culture - the wind farm construction has been temporarily set back. (http://www.tulsaworld.com/article.aspx/Eagles_vs_wind_farms_Osage_Nation_wins_round/20130902_11_A1_CUTLIN389891?subj=1).

[Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines Tier 3 and the Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance.](#) Wind Energy Training Materials. Christy Johnson-Hughes of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is joined by guests covering a range of topics pertinent to wind energy development. (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/wind_training/wind_training.html).

[Will Painting Wind Turbine Blades Minimise Bird Collisions?](#) A new research project has been initiated to determine whether changing the colour of wind turbine blades will have any effect on the number of bird deaths caused by birds unceremoniously careening into the massive blades. (<http://cleantechnica.com/2013/08/07/will-painting-wind-turbine-blades-minimise-bird-collisions/>).

[Plug pulled on wind project, official says.](#) A plan to build 27 wind turbines on a mountain range east of Apple Valley appears doomed, a Bureau of Land Management official said Friday. The plan had been on the drawing board for more than five years. The development hit a major snag when golden eagles were found nesting near the project site, which lies on 72 acres in the Granite Mountain range near Apple Valley and Lucerne Valley. (<http://www.vvdailypress.com/articles/project-41621-wind-mountain.html>).

[Court 'sets precedent' by approving Washington wind farm.](#) The Washington Supreme Court has rejected moves by environmental groups to block the construction of a wind farm with a capacity of up to 75MW. (<http://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1210168/court-sets-precedent-approving-washington-wind-farm>).

[Whooping Crane Case Could Affect State Water Supplies.](#) As drought conditions and dry forecasts persist across Texas, lawyers will argue a case in front of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on [Thursday](#) that could have major implications for water supplies in the state — and for natural resource planning nationally. (<http://www.texastribune.org/2013/08/08/whooping-crane-case-could-impact-state-water-suppl/>).

[Protecting the environment the right way: Column.](#) Cooperation and consensus make for a nice change of pace for endangered species protection. (<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/08/14/environment-conservation-banks-column/2651721/>).

[Hiding "Avian Mortality": Where 'Green' is Red \(Part I: Altamont Pass\).](#) A "green energy" wildlife genocide is depopulating wildlife habitats across the world where vital species once found refuge. Industrial wind turbines have invaded these habitats and are devastating bird and bat species. (<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/09/hiding-avian-mortality-altamont-pass/>).

Wildlife

[DeLong helps confirm bird migration theory](#). Scientists have long suspected that birds' migratory speeds and pathways are ultimately affected by their body size, rather than their physical limitations. UNL ecologist John DeLong played a significant part in a newly published study that has confirmed that theory. (<http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/todayatunl/2578/14186>).

[Bats, Dolphins and the Genetic Evolution of Echolocation](#). What is the similarity between a bat and a dolphin? Most people's immediate answer would be "not a lot." However, a group of researchers have recently sought to investigate the genetic profiles of these two unrelated species, based upon a single similarity in their behavior. The group want to know whether their ability to use echolocation signifies they have rudimentary genetic ties, molded by their environment. (<http://guardianlv.com/2013/09/bats-dolphins-and-the-genetic-evolution-of-echolocation/>).

[Stunning shots of thirsty bats swooping down for a drink from garden pond](#). Swooping low over a garden pond in Surrey, these are the stunning pictures of bats enjoying an evening drink at their favourite watering hole. They are so detailed you can even see the night creatures slurping from the pool with their little pink tongues. The amazing shots were taken after months of painstaking planning by wildlife photographer Kim Taylor. (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1213851/Stunning-shots-thirsty-bats-swooping-lick-water-garden-pond.html>).

[Mysterious Bat Killer Still Marching Across U.S.](#) The fungus that causes the deadly White Nose Syndrome in bats has been discovered on the wings of four bats in caves in Minnesota, adding another state to the growing list of where the disease has spread. (<http://news.discovery.com/animals/white-nose-syndrome-bats-130812.htm>).

Wind

[Stanford scientists calculate the energy required to store wind and solar power on the grid](#). Conventional grid-scale batteries are fine for solar farms, but technological improvements are needed for efficient storage of wind power, Stanford scientists say. (<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2013/september/curtail-energy-storage-090913.html>).

For the complete study by Charles J. Barnhart et al, **[The energetic implications of curtailing versus storing solar- and wind-generated electricity](#)**, published in Energy & Environmental Science, go to:
<http://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2013/ee/c3ee41973h#!divAbstract>

Upcoming Events

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 5-10, 2013. For more information: <http://wildlifesociety.org/>.

Sixth Annual Wind Conference will be held in Lincoln, NE on November 13-15, 2013. This year's theme is "Harvesting Nebraska's Potential." There will be a wind-wildlife session featuring Nebraska-based research and findings. For more information and to register: <http://nebraskawindconference.com/>.

Check out the **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website** at: <http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/> and **Wind Energy and Wildlife news** at: <http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>.

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