

What I want to be when I grows up



How to get paid for looking at birds

Where the jobs are...(usually)

Fed agencies

State agencies

Conservation organizations

Consulting firms





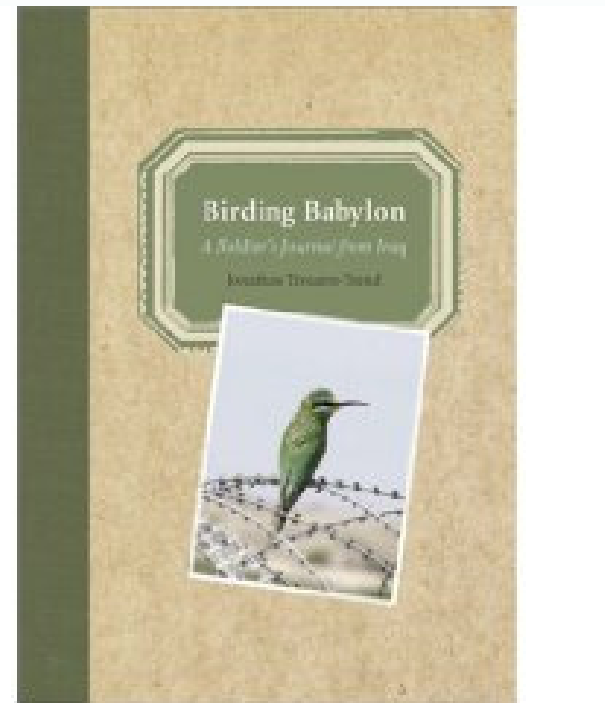
Even in tough times, there are new jobs and people leaving existing jobs

The realist

It is going to take more time

It may not be the job of your dreams

Join the army, see the world



OTOH



Ornithological Council 1992-2009



The worst interview question EVER

So where do you see yourself in five years?

The hard question

Are you ready to leave academia for good?

Conservation organizations

Some large conservation organizations
have science programs:

WWF Conservation Science

TNC Conservation Science

CI Center for Applied Biodiversity Science

Typical work:

Ecosystem services

Freshwater & marine

Remote sensing/GIS

CLIMATE CLIMATE CLIMATE

Species/biodiversity



Conservation organizations

Most jobs are not research-oriented

Many (most) jobs do not require Ph.Ds

Jobs have heavy administrative component

Not great pay (most have decent benefits)

Lack of stability - almost all “soft money”

Science is not worshipped



TAKE HOME MESSAGE

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Must be a meaningful internship

Consulting firms

Lots of them

Few good ones

Always contract-based (no job security)

Constraints on doing the job right



Government agencies

Federal research:

U.S. Geological Survey

U.S. Forest Service

USDA APHIS National Wildlife Research Center

EPA

Natural resource agencies:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Land Management

National Park Service

U.S. Forest Service

NOAA



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Start at very low level with low salary

Research jobs often term jobs

Funding is problematic from research to publication

Continuing restraints on federal scientists

Job security

No tenure track process*

Public service can be rewarding



Mechanisms

www.usajobs.gov

KSAs really do matter - Knowledge, Skills, Ability
statement

Contacts matter but not as much

SCEP - Student Career Experience Program

BLM Federal Career Internship program

Presidential Management Fellowships



State governments

Mostly management

More jobs on the “game” side

There are some nongame jobs now (State
Wildlife Conservation Strategy funding)

May be doing all nongame, not just birds



Ornithological Council Mission Statement

The Ornithological Council, a consortium of eleven scientific ornithological societies in the Western Hemisphere, seeks to:

- Ensure that the best ornithological science is incorporated into legislative, regulatory, and management decisions that affect birds;
- Enhance the ability of ornithologists to pursue professional activities; and
- Promote the influence of ornithology in public affairs

The short version: Keeping the world safe for ornithology