

*April 25, 2025*

I'm hiring for a machine learning data scientist & research assistant for summer 2025!

Join me in working on a project on invasive species management, by predicting species risk and planning capture strategies. This work will be in partnership with an innovative startup that is working directly to capture environmentally destructive invasive animal species in the US.

This project will be working with a US-based conservation partner to build predictive machine learning models and design harvest strategies for the removal of invasive animal species. The primary goal is to develop usable ML models and optimization tools to inform practical environmental decision-making on the ground.

There will also be opportunities to extend this work into a research publication for a top-tier AI venue.

The project would be:

- Paid, full-time internship for summer 2025
- Possibility of extension beyond the summer (part-time or full-time)
- Remote, but candidates should be authorized to work in the US
- Supervised by [Lily Xu](#), assistant professor at Columbia University

Ideal candidate background will include:

- Strong background in CS, data science, and/or applied math
- Experience developing machine learning models
- Excellent coding skills in Python
- Excellent writing and interpersonal communication skills
- Genuine interest in conservation/sustainability
- Nice to have: background in optimization methods
- Nice to have: experience with GIS and geospatial data
- Candidates would ideally have already completed an undergraduate degree, but exceptional undergrads will also be considered.

**How to apply:**

Please send a CV and 3–5 paragraphs of your background/interests via email to [lily.x@columbia.edu](mailto:lily.x@columbia.edu) with the subject line "Application: ML for invasive species management".

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.