



Songbird Research and Education Intern

POSITION DESCRIPTION: This position will assist with research and education at the Alaska Songbird Institute in Fairbanks, Alaska. The intern will work alongside ASI biologists and community volunteers on two long-term research/education projects. The Creamer's Field Migration Station is a mist netting station operating during spring and fall migration. The Tree Swallow Ecology Project is a nest monitoring/youth education project. Training will be provided in: bird banding & mist netting techniques, bird identification, environmental education, nest box monitoring and banding adult and nestling Tree Swallows.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES: Duties may include but are not limited to: monitoring up to 200 Tree Swallow nest boxes (approximately 75 active nests), recording nest chronology, capturing and banding breeding adults, banding and recording physiological data on nestlings, collecting nests, and entering data. The intern will also help supervise and mentor up to 15 youth volunteers (ages 10-14), and up to five high school interns (ages 14-17). Additional duties include: operating mist nets, monitoring and removing birds from mist nets, recording data, leading 1-hour field trips (grades K-12), leading 1-hour bird walks for visitors, station maintenance, interacting with volunteers, greeting independent visitors, and entering data in a manner that is consistent with ASI procedures. Responsibilities are expected to break down as follows: research & monitoring (50%); environmental education and community interaction (30%); data summarization and entry (10%); and field logistics (10%).

QUALIFICATIONS: Interns must possess a demonstrated interest in ornithology, environmental education, mentoring youth and teens, a strong work ethic, meticulous approach to collecting and recording data, positive attitude, good interpersonal skills, a genuine desire to gain experience in nest monitoring, banding, and working in a community-based research model. Interns must make common sense decisions concerning wildlife interactions (e.g., moose, bear), be able to work independently and as part of a team, to actively involve youth and volunteers in all aspects of the projects, and work well as a leader of youth, teens, and adults. In addition, this position requires many early mornings (starting at 5:30 AM), weekend days, and the ability to follow a work schedule that is dependent upon changing weather and field logistics.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: Nest monitoring and bird banding require good manual dexterity and eyesight and involve long periods of being on your feet with few or no breaks. Interns must be able to access all nest boxes and mist nets and travel with groups of children through and to the study areas. This job may require walking through waist deep water and vegetation, carrying a backpack with gear (~25lbs), stepping over logs and fences, crossing uneven terrain, riding a bicycle, and carrying heavy objects in high levels of insect activity and inclement weather conditions.

HOURS: Variable, averaging 40 hours /week from April 15-September 30, 2017. Required to work many weekend days.

STATUS: Non-exempt, seasonal.

SALARY & BENEFITS: The intern will earn a living stipend of \$1,250 per month, partial months will be pro-rated. Stipends are taxable and paid in monthly installments. Housing is not provided.

TO APPLY: To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and three references (at least one should be familiar with your experience/skills working with youth) as a single document to:
April.HardingScurr@aksongbird.org by February 10, 2017.