Volunteer interns, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Description: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is seeking three to four full-time volunteer interns to assist with monitoring least terns (Sternula antillarum) and common terns (Sterna hirundo) on Poplar Island, an Army Corps of Engineers habitat restoration project located in the Chesapeake Bay. Two interns will primarily be assisting a M.S. student with his research while the other interns will be assisting more generally with field data collection and office work. Interns assisting with the M.S. student will have the following duties: 1) assist with data collection in field at field sites through Maryland, 2) assist with building a surveillance system and troubleshooting as needed, 3) analyzing footage and processing temperature data in lab, and 4) collecting scientific research and proofreading manuscripts. The primary duties of the general interns will be: 1) assist research scientists with weekly nest monitoring efforts, 2) assist with banding least and common tern chicks for a mark-resight study, 3) using binoculars and birding scope, read unique alpha-numeric code (eg. A03) on plastic field readable banded chicks, 4) assist with colony counts for nesting herons and egrets, 5) conduct office work including data entry, proofing, etc., 6) assist with other duties on the island including habitat restoration, disease monitoring, UAV (drone) studies, etc., and 7) participate in data analysis and writing of subsequent manuscripts as appropriate.

This is an unpaid three-month internship; however, internship for university credit can be supported. PWRC is located in Beltsville, MD and boat launch will be from Annapolis, MD. Interns assisting the M.S. student will be traveling to Baltimore and Ocean City, MD as well. Interns are responsible for their own housing and transportation to the boat launch (on field days) and office (on non-field days). The position will begin in May and end in August, with some flexibility on start/end dates. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and three references to Paul Marbán at paul.marban07@gmail.com. Please write “Poplar Internship Application” and your name in the subject line and send all application materials as a single attachment using the following naming format: LastName_FirstName_Internship_Application.doc. Please specify your available start date and end dates, and any birding experience you might have.

Last date to apply is March 10, 2017.

Requirements: Minimum qualifications include:

- Bachelor of Science degree (or in the process of obtaining) in wildlife biology, environmental science, or related field.
- Experience identifying North American waterbirds and shorebirds preferred
- Working knowledge of electrical wiring, carpentry, and power tools preferred
• Strong attention to detail and safe work habits
• Ability to work as a part of a team as well as independently
• Effective communication skills
• Data entry experience
• Tolerance of hot, humid, or buggy work conditions
• Ability to commute to field-site on a 16-25’ open cabin boat
• Interest in having fun and learning along the way!