

One Seasonal Waterfowl Technician

Agency – Tennessee Tech University

Location – Dyersburg, Tennessee

Compensation – Stipend of \$2,000 per month for 5 months, field housing, and field transportation provided.

Start date – 10/07/2024

End date – 02/28/2025

Last date to apply – 07/20/2024

We are looking to fill one technician position to assist a Ph.D. student and two M.S. students with waterfowl research in western Tennessee. Research includes capturing and tracking wintering mallards using GPS/GSM transmitters, assessing habitat characteristics for wintering waterfowl, measuring the impact of hunter disturbance, and investigating refuge use by waterfowl wintering in western Tennessee. Primary technician duties include waterfowl trapping/handling, deploying and maintaining Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs), UAV waterfowl surveys, GPS/GSM telemetry, setting and checking trail cameras, and data entry. Other duties may arise as needed.

Applicants must possess a valid driver's license, must have a good attitude, and must be willing to work long and irregular hours as needed. Applicants must also be in good physical condition and be able to lift/carry at least 50 pounds long distances through mud and marsh. Experience with a) waterfowl identification, b) Geographic Information Systems (GIS), c) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and d) ATVs and boats equipped with standard outboard and/or surface drive motors is a plus but not explicitly required. Shared housing will be provided in Dyersburg, TN. Work schedule will be irregular with shifting days off and a significant portion of time spent working after dusk or before dawn.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Waterfowl banding and handling including:
 - Locating, baiting, and setting trap sites
 - Identifying age and sex of waterfowl
 - Taking bird morphologic measurements
 - Taking biological samples
- Climbing trees to deploy and maintain ARU sites
- Equipment maintenance
- Data entry and organization
- Waterfowl surveys on land/water and using UAVs.
- Vegetation surveys

Minimum Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, wildlife management or related field.
- Must be able to navigate using a handheld GPS device
- Must possess a valid US driver's license without restrictions
- Must have good communication skills with peers, agency staff, and private landowners
- Must be able to carry 50 lbs and traverse wetlands and muddy conditions in waders
- Must be able to maintain a positive attitude in adverse weather conditions and during periods when working long hours.

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities (desired):

- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Able to live and interact amicably with a diversity of people
- Experience with GIS and Excel
- Experience with data collection and entry
- Meticulous attention to detail
- Ability to operate 4x4 vehicles, boats, ATVs, etc.
- Experience identifying waterfowl in hand and from a distance
- Experience trapping waterfowl
- Experience conducting vegetation surveys
- Experience using UAVs to survey wildlife

Apply by emailing a single pdf including a brief cover letter, CV/resume, and contact information for three references to chighway42@tntech.edu with the subject line "Tennessee Mallard Technician".