

Wood Duck/Waterfowl Technician

Location: Delaware and Maryland

Salary and Housing: \$2,240/month with shared housing provided

Start/End Date: One technician will work March 11, 2024 – July 12, 2024 (start and end dates are flexible). A second technician will work April 15, 2024 – July 12, 2024 (start and end dates are flexible).

Description:

The University of Delaware is hiring two highly motivated research technicians to assist a graduate student in investigating brood ecology of wood ducks in the Delmarva Peninsula with the potential for additional waterfowl research experiences. This project represents the opportunity to work with several state, private, and university organizations in a highly collaborative study throughout the southern half of the Atlantic Flyway. Primary duties will include:

- Brood habitat vegetation surveys
- Radio-telemetry tracking wood duck broods
- Candling eggs to estimate hatch date
- Capturing, banding, aging, and attaching backpack-style telemetry packages to adult female wood ducks
- Capturing ducklings and attaching VHF transmitters to ducklings
- Taking photographs of adult female wood ducks
- Detailed data collection and entry

The technicians may also assist with other duties as needed. Field work will be conducted primarily in Delaware coastal marsh wetlands and forested wetlands in Maryland. Applicants must be comfortable working in adverse conditions including high temperatures, biting/stinging insects, uneven terrain, soft bottom wetlands, and long and unpredictable hours, especially early mornings. Applicants must be comfortable working alone in wetland ecosystems. Applicants must be in good physical condition and be able to lift/carry at least 50 pounds long distances through mud and marsh. There will be instances where technicians will be asked to work >1 week without days off.

Required Qualifications:

- Must possess or be working toward a B.S. degree in wildlife sciences, ecology, natural resources, or a closely related discipline
- Must possess a valid driver's license with a clean driving record
- Should be in excellent physical condition, must work well on a team, be self-motivated with a positive attitude, and must be ready to work long days, weeks on end, in adverse field conditions

- Reliable data collection, data entry, and note-taking skills
- Familiarity with navigating via handheld GPS unit

Preferred Qualifications:

- First aid/CPR certification
- Prior experience with telemetry tracking animals, especially birds
- Experience with waterfowl capture and banding, especially wood ducks
- Ability to determine incubation stage of eggs by candling
- Knowledge of waterfowl aging using wing plumage
- Experience operating 4WD vehicles in mud and uneven terrain
- Self-motivated and comfortable working without direct supervision
- Prior experience working in coastal salt marsh systems
- Experience kayaking/canoeing
- General veterinary experience (blood draws on birds, suturing, any surgical experience, etc.) would be desirable

Please email a resume/CV, cover letter, and contact information for three references (At least one that has worked directly with you in the field) in Word or PDF format to Blake Struthers (blakestr@udel.edu) with “WODU Technician” as the subject line by November 30th, 2024, to apply.