

Position: Experienced field assistant needed for marsh bird research

Description: Seeking **experienced field assistant** for secretive marsh bird Master's research at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (Cambridge, Maryland). This individual will be employed through the Student Temporary Experience Program (STEP) and **must** be a student taking at least a half-time course load in order to apply. This project examines the effects of controlled burning on marsh-obligate species by surveying bird abundance and nesting success.

This individual will be responsible for assisting the project leader in conducting daily field research and leading a small crew on independent field assignments. Will assist with all aspects of data collection and management, including nest searching, monitoring, spot-mapping, collecting vegetation data, and conducting callback surveys. Should expect to work early mornings (leaving for field sites at dawn), long days, and in challenging field conditions (high heat/humidity, no shade, and biting insects). Good physical condition is very important – navigating the tidal salt-marsh is a unique challenge! Motorized boats are necessary to access field sites – applicant must be willing to attend certification training if not previously held (will be provided by USFWS). This position offers an opportunity to gain extensive experience with secretive marsh birds, as well as to participate in various aspects of National Wildlife Refuge operations. Position will run from mid-May through mid-August (16 weeks).

Qualifications: Applicant must have experience identifying birds visually and audibly (previous avian research experience preferred). Preference will be given to applicants with GIS/GPS experience, knowledge of salt-marsh vegetation, and/or U.S. government boat-operator certification (MOCC). Must have good leadership and teamwork skills, and a positive attitude.

Salary: \$11.64 – \$13.18/hour (depending on skills and ability), plus on-site housing (all utilities, including kitchen and washer/dryer, provided).

To apply: Send cover letter, resume and contact information for three references to Rebecca Kern (Rebecca_kern@fws.gov). Email preferred, but applications may also be sent to:

Rebecca Kern
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