

Internship at the Wildlife Resources Commission

All supplies and equipment are supplied by the Wildlife Resources Commission. All work-related travel expenses are paid by the Wildlife Resources Commission. All interns are paid overtime in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards act and agency policy. Please note that housing is the responsibility of the intern.

Project Name

Coastal Waterbird Investigations & Management

One undergraduate student from a Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program or similar program will assist the Coastal Waterbird Investigations and Management Project of the Wildlife Diversity Program, NCWRC, during Summer 2015. During the internship, the student will provide assistance to the Wildlife Diversity Biologist and Technician during ongoing and new projects. The student will help with monitoring and surveys of Wood Stork nesting colonies, nesting pairs of Wilson's and Piping Plovers, and migrating species. As needed, the student will help maintain posted nestingsites, and provide outreach information to recreationists. Habitat characteristics and land ownership of sites used by nesting colonies of waterbirds will be obtained as well. The student will learn to be responsible for field supplies and equipment; assisting with boat operation and maintenance; navigation; identification of birds; mapping territories of nesting birds; recording data at nesting sites; maintaining data in Excel files; maintaining a personal work journal; and other duties assigned by their supervisor. The student will be taught species identification, species behavioral attributes, equipment operation, mapping and navigation skills, data recording procedures, and other skills as needed. The projects with which the student will assist the Wildlife Diversity Biologist and Technician will be on barrier island beaches, the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, marsh islands, dredged-material islands, and oyster shell rakes. These sites extend from South Carolina to Virginia, along the coast and in the sounds; hence, there will be much driving and frequent long days. When isolated locations along the Outer Banks are surveyed, an overnight stay will be required. The student intern is expected to be responsible and respectful, ask numerous questions, take copious notes in their work journals, and contribute their ideas and suggestions. S/he must be professional and polite in her/his interactions with NCWRC partners, volunteers, and the public. If s/he is asked questions for which s/he does not have the answers, or are challenged by a member of the public about waterbird management and conservation, s/he is to direct the inquiries to their supervisor. Duration of Internships and Work Schedule May 18 through July 24, 2015 (10 weeks). The intern will not work more than 40 hr/week on average, and will not work on state holidays. Each work week's schedule will differ due to travel, weather, and the need to complete some tasks without interruptions. A plan for forthcoming weeks will be drafted on Fridays. If an intern must take time off, the supervisor must be notified as far in advance as possible.

Objective:

Objective: to provide assistance to the Wildlife Diversity Biologist and Technicians during ongoing and new projects, including monitoring and surveys of Wood Stork nesting colonies, nesting pairs of Wilson's and Piping Plovers, and migrating species; habitat management and assessment (maintain posted nesting sites; obtain habitat characteristics and land ownership information); data entry and management.well.

Project Location

County:

Location: New Bern, NC -- duty station of coordinator
Counties: Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Carteret, Onslow, Brunswick, New Hanover (all coastal counties)

Location Description: Project staff travel along NC coast to accomplish work goals; Home Office within the work area; Field location such as a depot

Academic Majors:

Wildlife Management, Ecology, or Science, Ecology, Biology, Marine Biology, Zoology

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:

Knowledge of outdoor working conditions, proper attire for work during summer on boats and beaches; ability to write clearly and take appropriate notes during field work; ability to use binoculars and field guides that identify birds.

Tasks and Duties:

Maintenance of field supplies and equipment; Assist with boat operation and maintenance; Navigate to bird nesting sites; Identify and record data on waterbirds; Map territories of nesting birds; Maintain data in online database; Maintain a personal work journal

Travel Required:

About 33% of time will be spent traveling to bird nesting areas; there will be 3-4 overnight travel events

Work Schedule:

Weekdays (M-F); Occasional evening or nighttime hours

Final Product:

The intern will be taught species identification, species behavioral attributes, equipment operation, mapping and navigation skills, data recording procedures, and other skills as needed. The intern will attend multi-agency coastal engineering project review meetings where they will learn the environmental policies affecting coastal species, habitats, and engineering projects. The student will provide assistance to the Project and will gain insight and understanding of NCWRC's coastal programs.

Knowledge Gained:

The intern will be taught species identification, species behavioral attributes, equipment operation, mapping and navigation skills, data recording procedures, and other skills as needed. The intern will attend multi-agency coastal engineering project review meetings where they will learn the environmental policies affecting coastal species, habitats, and engineering projects. The student will provide assistance to the Project and will gain insight and understanding of NCWRC's coastal programs.