

Alaska Bird Observatory
Point Count Intern/Trainee (2 positions)
Point Count Surveys (Black River, Kilbuck Mts./Nulato Hills)

STATUS: Non-exempt, seasonal

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Work will involve participating in a 2-week training program and then traveling to remote locations by air (helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft) and then on foot (and/or boat) to conduct point counts on BLM lands in the Black River Area in eastern AK or the Nulato Hills/Kilbuck Mts in southwestern AK. Counts will be conducted using variable circular plots and distance sampling. The intern/trainee will aide with point-counts by recording survey data. Intern/Trainees will work under the direction of an ABO Field Biologist. Hiring period is ~15 May - 30 June 2008.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must be in excellent physical condition, as work will entail strenuous hiking over extremely rugged terrain, through dense brush, and across glacial streams while carrying a heavy backpack and fending off hordes of mosquitoes. Expect to arise by 0100 and sometimes work up to seven days/week, and count on being stuck in a tent during some rain days. All applicants must have a positive attitude, enjoy working and camping in remote field conditions as part of a team, be able to follow study protocols and carefully record field data, and be capable of making common sense decisions concerning wildlife interactions (e.g., bears, moose). Must pass gun safety training and be able to legally carry a firearm. Valid driver's license and good driving record.

ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: The Intern/Trainee must be in superb physical condition. Conducting bird surveys may require up to nine hours/day of strenuous walking through water and muskeg, stepping over logs and streams, crossing uneven terrain, traversing steep hills while bushwhacking through dense stands of alder and spruce, carrying a 30-60 pound backpack, and accessing transects by helicopter or long hikes. Must be able to get up as early as 1 AM up to seven days/week for three weeks in a row and also be able to tolerate heavy insect activity and all types of weather conditions including extreme temperatures. Study areas may be frequented by grizzly and black bears.

SALARY & BENEFITS: \$750/monthly taxable stipend. Shared housing/camping will be provided when not in the field, as will a \$750 travel reimbursement from outside the Fairbanks area.

TO APPLY: Please submit a resume, cover letter, names and phone numbers of three references, and an ABO application (available online at www.alaskabird.org) to Susan Sharbaugh, Alaska Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 80505, Fairbanks, AK 99708, or electronically in Microsoft Word format to: ssharbaugh@alaskabird.org by 1 March 2008.