



Alaska Bird Observatory
Rusty Blackbird Project, Yukon Flats NWR
Field Technician

POSITION DESCRIPTION: The Alaska Bird Observatory, Fairbanks, AK is accepting applications for a Field Technician to participate in a study of the breeding biology and habitat associations of Rusty Blackbirds. This primarily field-based position will involve conducting surveys for blackbirds, nest searching and monitoring, habitat sampling, target-netting, re-sighting color-banded birds, and collecting tissue samples. The field technician will live and work out of a remote tent camp in Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge in interior Alaska. Access (provided) to field camps will be by helicopter or small plane. Access to grocery stores, showers, and other comforts will occur only at the beginning and end of field season. Communication will be limited to mail or occasionally radio contact. The workday includes very early mornings (leave camp at 4:00 a.m.). This position will help supervise field crew members and volunteers.

QUALIFICATIONS: Successful candidates must be physically capable of walking long distances, up to several miles a day, over rough, muddy, and difficult terrain carrying a daypack. Candidates must have experience navigating with a GPS, map and compass, and must have extensive experience in avian fieldwork. Field conditions will include difficult weather (snow early in the season, hot and dry at the end), large numbers of insects, and possible encounters with dangerous wildlife including moose and bears. Must be able to tolerate isolated conditions with a small number of people. Must be able to handle primitive shower, laundry, and restroom facilities. Candidates should have skills in one or more of the following areas: nest searching and monitoring, target netting, vegetation sampling. Experience with powerboats and outboard motors a plus. Must be able to tolerate travel by helicopter and/or small airplanes. Must pass a gun safety course (provided) and be willing and able to legally carry a firearm. Must be able to discriminate: red, orange, yellow, green, light green, dark blue, light blue, purple, hot pink, pink, dark pink, brown, black, white, and gray, to read color bands through binoculars.

Seasonal position: May1 –July 31 2010

SALARY & BENEFITS: \$12-13.50/hr DOE. Lodging: camping, laundry, shower facilities, and bicycle transportation provided while in Fairbanks. Tent camp while in the field. Travel Reimbursement: Up to \$ 850.00 round trip with receipt. Transportation to and from the airport provided.

TO APPLY: Please submit a resume, cover letter, names and phone numbers of three references electronically to April Harding Scurr - April1bird@yahoo.com