

Waterbird and Wetland Field Technicians Needed (1-2)

Employer: University of Illinois, Prairie Research Institute, Illinois Natural History Survey. Position will be located at the Forbes Biological Station near Havana, IL.

General: Technicians are needed for projects examining quantity and quality of wetlands available to waterbirds throughout Illinois (wetland mapping); wetland use by ducks and marsh birds (call-back surveys, point counts, radio telemetry, trapping and banding); food use and selection by ducks (experimental collection, habitat sampling, sample processing in a laboratory); and other projects. Technicians will be based at the Forbes Biological Field Station in Havana, Illinois, but extensive travel throughout Illinois may be required during field seasons.

Position duration: 20 March 2016 to 15 September 2016 (depending on funding).

Potential Duties: Survey waterbirds and other wildlife, assist with experiments assessing energy value of foods for waterfowl, conduct radio telemetry, assist with waterfowl trapping, use GPS/Archer units to map wetland inundation and other characteristics, conduct aquatic vegetation surveys, conduct wetland rapid assessments, record and manage data, conduct data entry (GPS waypoint and tracks), contact landowners, sort food and vegetation samples in a laboratory, collect ducks using approved protocols, and other duties as assigned. Very long days conducting field work in waders, overnight travel, and work in adverse weather conditions (e.g., cold, hot, raining, snowing) will be required.

Qualifications: B.S. degree in wildlife science, natural resources, biology, or a related field; previous field experience identifying waterbirds and wetland plants; ability to carry up to 50 lbs while wading through a wetland; and a current driver's license are required. Experience with boats, ATVs, and off-road vehicles is preferred. Successful applicants will demonstrate their ability to tolerate adverse field conditions including walking long distances in waders, muddy and difficult terrain, exposure to low temperatures, summer heat and humidity, biting insects, and irritating plants (poison ivy and stinging nettle). Applicants should possess a strong work ethic, desire to learn, attention to detail, good interpersonal skills, and a flexible schedule.

Compensation: \$9.00 to \$12.50 per hour depending upon experience; minimum of 40 hours a week available; housing available at a reduced rate (~\$200/month) at the Forbes Biological Station near Havana, IL.

To Apply: Application deadline is **March 15th, 2016**. Review of applications will begin immediately and suitable applicants may be contacted for interviews prior to the deadline. Electronic applications required. Please send brief cover letter explaining your qualifications and interest, resume, and names and contact information of three references in a single PDF document to hhagy@illinois.edu AND hroffice@inhs.illinois.edu and reference "Wetland Project" in the subject line of the email. Direct technical questions to Dr. Heath Hagy at hhagy@illinois.edu. **The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.**

Illinois is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, status as a protected veteran, or status as a qualified individual with a disability. Illinois welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity. (www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu).