



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Willamette National Forest
McKenzie River Ranger District

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McKenzie Bridge, Oregon 97413
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File Code: 2600 Wildlife

Date: October 20, 2010

Re: 2011 Neotropical Migratory Bird Program
International Exchange Visitor: Wildlife Biologist
February 20-November 30, 2011

To: Interested Wildlife Biologists with Ornithology Experience
Application Deadline is December 1, 2010

The Willamette National Forest's Neotropical Migratory Bird Program will again host an International Visiting Wildlife Biologist in 2011. New to this program in 2011 is that the Visiting Wildlife Biologist will assist the Siuslaw National Forest with their shorebird program which is part of the Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative (CRIMBI).

This program is open to all current and future wildlife biologists who reside in countries outside the U.S., and who have experience with ornithology. The main focus of this program is to improve the conservation and management of neotropical migratory birds which cross our countries' borders during their annual migrations. Another purpose is to develop and strengthen professional and personal ties between foreign nationals, U.S. citizens, and institutions. These people-to-people programs enable government visitors to better understand U.S. culture and society, and to contribute to U.S. knowledge of foreign cultures. Feedback from past participants and others involved has helped to strengthen this program over many years.

Since 1992, we have hosted twenty biologists from Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Ecuador between one and nine months. Visiting biologists have been directly involved in district program activities that included wildlife, botany, forestry, fisheries, hydrology, silviculture, fire, archaeology, and recreation. Wildlife program activities have included:

- Training in and work on a long-term mistnetting and birdbanding project
- Design and accomplishment of natural resource education activities for children and adults
- Habitat restoration and enhancement projects, for example, snag creation and monitoring, elk, amphibian, and cavity nester habitat enhancement.
- Developing management plans for designated special habitat areas
- Project monitoring reports
- Survey data organization
- Assisted in surveys for Great Gray Owls, Northern Spotted Owls, Harlequin Ducks, Peregrine Falcons, Western Pond Turtles, Red Tree Voles, and Terrestrial Mollusks
- Monitored and radio tracked bats

The nearby HJ Andrews Experimental Forest offers the opportunity to exchange information with forest researchers. In some years other agency biologists (Oregon Department of Fish and



Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others) have also been involved in this program to exchange technical information related to management and research.



The following are the projected timeframes for the 2011 program:

February 20-April 30: Orientation to the McKenzie River

Ranger District and preparation for natural resource education activities. Begin to assist wildlife and natural resource programs and possibly spend time with other district departments both in the field and office. Assist the Siuslaw National Forest on the Oregon Coast with their shorebird outreach program during spring break in late March.

May 1-August 8: During the past thirteen years, the Willamette National Forest's program has been linked with a work experience through the Institute for Bird Populations in Pt. Reyes Station, California. From May 1-14, the individual would attend a mistnetting and birdbanding training workshop by the Institute for Bird Populations in southern Oregon. After that, they will return to McKenzie Bridge, Oregon, where they will work as part of a two-person team operating the six mistnetting and birdbanding stations on the Willamette National Forest. These stations are part of the long-term Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program.

August 9-November 15: The biologist would again work on the McKenzie River Ranger District on various wildlife projects, and implementing a natural resource education program for schools and local organizations. They will spend time working independently on projects, depending on individual interests and organizational needs. Although time spent on individual projects is limited, we believe that this offers a valuable learning experience, and depending on the project, allows more integration in district programs and the community. In exchange, we hope to learn more about how natural resource management work is planned and implemented in other countries to generate additional ideas for our work here, as well as to encourage international cooperation and a better understanding of other countries.

Projects in 2011 may include but are not limited to:

Continue to develop and implement the Conservation Education program for schools and the local community

Developing and writing a Management Plan for a designated Special Habitat Area

Western pond turtle habitat enhancement work

Created wildlife tree/snag monitoring and contract inspection

Amphibian monitoring and development of a district monitoring plan

Development of a photo display of species the district is particularly interested in for wildlife sightings

Work with other biologists to provide wildlife input to a district project

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) work using ARCMAP (beginning and intermediate courses are offered)

We are open to suggestions concerning other possible projects.

In 2011, the visiting biologist will stay through November 30 to organize and implement natural resource education activities for schools and local organizations. This timeframe could be shortened or extended, and is funding-dependent.

Before we select an individual to participate in this year's program, their goals and interests, as well as possible work projects which the Forest Service can offer will be discussed. This will help ensure that expectations on both sides can be met. After arrival in Oregon, additional details and timeframes will be planned.

To participate in this program, applicants need to already have a good comprehension of English.

The birdbanding training and requirements are fairly rigorous.

Some or all travel and visa-related expenses may be covered by the Willamette National Forest, depending on the situation of each individual. Expenses covered may include roundtrip airfare from your country, the required medical insurance coverage while in the U.S., as well as basic housing. A per diem allowance adequate to cover food and incidental expenses will be paid by the Institute for Bird Populations during the birdbanding period between May 1 through August 8, and the Willamette National Forest will cover expenses during the remainder of the time. You will be required to obtain a J1 Exchange Visitor visa which we can help you obtain. You will likely need to visit the U.S. Consulate in your country to obtain this visa. For some countries, you would need to pay \$100 U.S. for the J1 visa. In addition, there is now a \$100 SEVIS fee payable to the Department of Homeland Security which you would also need to prepay by credit card. We can reimburse you for these expenses. **Please be sure to keep your receipts as they are needed for reimbursement.**

Please take some time to review the following website that lists information about the different types of visas and in particular the J1 visa which you would have:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html

Requirements:

- ✚ At least 2 years college in a natural resources or biology curriculum, or comparable work experience.
- ✚ Be able to leave your home country February 20 and stay until November 30 (with some flexibility for the return date).
- ✚ A good ability to speak and read English to adequately understand biological and other work-related information.
- ✚ Experience with and a strong interest in natural resource education in schools and with community organizations

- ✚ Public speaking skills
- ✚ Strong interest in integrated natural resource management.
- ✚ Valid driver's license for your own country, excellent driving record and experienced driver including on gravel and dirt roads. Ability to obtain an Oregon and U.S. Government Driver's License. **Please note that meeting this requirement is critical, i.e. applicants without a driver's license cannot be considered.**
- ✚ A passport valid for travel to the United States **and with a valid date at least six months** beyond the timeframe of your projected stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions).
- ✚ Ability to work outdoors for extended periods in a wide variety of weather conditions, including wet, cold, foggy, and rainy weather. Late spring and early summer weather in the Oregon Cascade Mountains can be quite chilly, especially for visitors not accustomed to high humidity and cold rain. From February through June you may experience snowy conditions. Late summer weather in the Cascades is usually hot and dry.



Preference will be given to applicants who are from either:

- Mexico, Central, and South America OR
- Countries with temperate coniferous forests who will benefit from a work experience in the Oregon Cascades.

Preferred: Ability to teach children about birds using art for a community event.



Application Information:

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email, fax, or mail the following information:

1. Your responses to the applicant questions (see below)
2. Resume
3. List of three references, including their current address, phone number, and email.

Please note that incomplete applications or those received after the December 1, 2010 deadline will not be considered. You may email your application information to ruseitz@fs.fed.us

McKenzie River Ranger District
Attn: Ruby Seitz, NTMB Program
57600 McKenzie Highway
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 USA
phone: (541)822-7256, fax: (541)822-7254

Prior to making an applicant selection, you will be interviewed on the phone in English to discuss your objectives for participating in this program, as well as how working here will benefit you after returning to your country. If you have general questions about this opportunity, contact Ruby Seitz at the McKenzie River Ranger District. If you have questions specific to the birdbanding, contact Ron Taylor, MAPS Coordinator, Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Pt. Reyes, CA 94956-1346 USA, email: rtaylor@birdpop.org, phone: (415)663-1436, fax: (415)663-9482.

/s/ Mary Allison
District Ranger
McKenzie River Ranger District

Attachment 1 - Applicant Questions:

1. Please rank your English ability in the table below by checking the appropriate box :

	Understanding spoken language	Speaking ability	Writing ability
Fluent			
Excellent			
Good			
Fair			
Poor			

2. What is your English background and experience?
3. Rank your level of bird identification expertise (beginner, intermediate, advanced, or expert) and describe where you obtained birding experience.
4. Please write a brief description of your current professional activities.
5. What is your experience working with neotropical migratory birds? Do you have any experience mistnetting/banding birds? If so, please elaborate and especially include your experience with species, especially smaller species.
6. Do you have any experience with shorebirds? If so, please explain the types of experiences.
7. Do you have any experience with natural resource education or public speaking in your native language or English?
8. Would you be comfortable engaging youth in natural resource education using the arts? Briefly explain how you would do this, i.e. drawing, painting, drama, music, or writing, etc.
9. The McKenzie River Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest is involved in active forest management which involves all disciplines. What are your long-term career goals? How would an experience working with wildlife and other natural resources personnel in Oregon benefit you and your home country? What skills and knowledge would you like to learn?
10. Does your home country have temperate coniferous forests and does your current work, or your future work goals, involve working in a forested setting?
11. What can you offer the Institute for Bird Populations, the district and the forest in terms of work/experience sharing?

12. Do you have any slide presentations/talks that you could give to the district, forest biologists, or the public?
13. What computer skills do you have?
14. Do you have a valid driver's license?
15. How many years of driving experience have you had, and what is your driving record?
Please provide background about your driving experience in both urban and rural settings, including use of 4WD and driving on single lane gravel roads that may have other traffic on them.
16. Please describe your general strengths and weaknesses.
17. How did you hear about this opportunity?

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the applicant questions! You will receive a response about your application status by early January 2011.

Attachment 2 – Additional Information about the Birdbanding Program

The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) is a small, non-profit organization established in 1989 and dedicated to fostering a global approach to research and the dissemination of information on changes in bird populations. Our largest project is the MAPS, or Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, program. The program is based on a network of constant-effort mist-netting and banding stations throughout the U.S. and Canada and is a cooperative effort among public agencies, private organizations, and independent bird banders. It is designed to provide demographic information on North American landbirds for long-term monitoring of productivity and survivorship in an effort to aid in identifying the causes of population changes detected by other avian monitoring programs. In 2005, there were 490 stations contributing information to the program, 111 of which were operated by IBP biologists and interns under contracts with the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, the Department of Defense, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

A typical MAPS station consists of ten twelve-meter mist nets in the central seven or eight hectares of a 20-ha study area. The nets are opened for six hours, beginning at sunrise, once every ten days from May (in some cases, June) to August. The nets are checked frequently and all birds captured are identified, banded, aged, sexed, and released. Additional data on skull pneumatization, breeding condition, molt, wing length, fat, and weight also are collected on all species. Feather samples are collected from selected species that may or may not be found at all locations. Capture rates of adults and young and proportion of young in the catch are used as indices of population size and productivity. Between-year recapture data provide estimates of survivorship and recruitment. Finally, a semi-quantitative description of the vegetation at each station is completed during the second month (fourth 10-day period) of operation.

MAPS interns operate our "agency" stations in national forests and parks and military installations around the country. A typical internship entails the operation of six stations at a given location (i.e., park, forest, or installation) on a rotating basis in partnership with one other intern. Thus, there are six work days during each ten-day period (this equates to four or five days a week), but due to weather conditions we cannot promise that days off will be consecutive. Both interns are responsible for operation of the nets, processing captured birds, and conducting vegetation analysis. Typically, each pair of interns is trained and supervised by a roving IBP biologist who is responsible for a cluster of typically three locations and thus is present at each location about a third of the time.

Internships begin with an intensive, two-week training session, conducted by IBP biologists, covering MAPS data-collection methods and protocol. The session for interns working in Washington and Oregon is held near Grants Pass, Oregon. After the course, interns will proceed with their supervising biologists and fellow interns to their assigned work locations. Those working farthest from the training sites usually will go to the nearer locations first to assist with setup. Be warned that workloads during the training and setup period (lasting up to a month) involve long, hard days with little, if any, time off!

A typical workday, after the training and setup period, requires arriving at the station by sunrise (this may mean waking up as early as 3:30). Both interns will put the nets up, open them, check

them every 30-45 minutes, extract any birds captured, and take them back to a central location for processing and release. During the course of the morning, both interns must keep track of all bird species present and note signs of breeding activity. At slow stations, one intern may do some vegetation analysis while the other operates the nets. The nets are taken down after six hours (usually around noon), the last birds are processed, and all paperwork is completed before leaving the station. With travel time, work typically will be completed by around 1-2 p.m. However, vegetation analysis will be necessary on a few afternoons, thus lengthening the workday somewhat on those days.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Like all IBP internships, MAPS internships are volunteer independent contractor positions that do not involve an employment relationship with IBP. Thus, IBP interns receive no salary, hourly wages, or benefits for their volunteer work. All IBP interns are reimbursed for their food and out-of-pocket expenses by means of a *per diem* reimbursement. This per diem is currently \$25 for the Willamette National Forest. Calculated based on 84 workdays, it will total \$2,100 for work completed between May 1 and August 8. The per diem is paid in monthly installments. In addition, housing is provided at no charge in a government bunkhouse.

IBP internships are demanding and challenging but also rewarding and exciting, as evidenced by the number of returning interns. You will learn a tremendous amount about avian ecology, behavior, and identification; and you will have the opportunity to meet fantastic people and work in some of the most beautiful areas of the country. Furthermore, the experience gained as an IBP intern is valued by prospective employers, including IBP where all staff biologists start out as interns. We guarantee you will find your summer as an IBP intern one of the most memorable of your life.

You may also check the website: <http://www.birdpop.org/> and especially take a look at the birdbanders information packet: <http://www.birdpop.org/interns/MAPSint2009.htm>

There is no need to complete the on-line MAPS application until you have been selected, if you are applying through the Willamette National Forest International Visiting Wildlife Biologist Program.

The Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
Phone (415) 663-1436; Fax (415) 663-9482; E-mail rtaylor@birdpop.org

Attachment 3 – Additional Information about the Community

ABOUT THE WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST:

The Willamette National Forest is a large, complex forest, encompassing over 1.6 million acres in Oregon, which stretches for 110 miles along the western slopes of the Cascades. There are five Districts, an experimental forest, and a diverse and challenging program of work. It is known for its numerous volcanic peaks, the forested Cascade Range, and its outstanding rivers. For more information, visit the forest's website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette>

ABOUT THE MCKENZIE RIVER RANGER DISTRICT & COMMUNITY:

The McKenzie River Ranger Station is located about 50 miles east of the Eugene/Springfield metro area on Highway 126 near the small community of McKenzie Bridge. McKenzie Bridge is one of nine small communities located in the McKenzie river valley between the cities of Eugene and Bend. The community of Blue River is located about 16 miles from the Ranger Station. Limited services found in these two communities include restaurants, lodging, groceries, gas, churches and a medical clinic. Daily bus service from the Eugene area to the Ranger Station is available for more complete shopping or entertainment needs.

The climate in the area is typical for the west side of the Oregon Cascade Mountain Range. The average rainfall is 65 inches annually, occurring mostly from October to April. The Ranger Station is located at 1600 feet elevation and sees snow on occasion during the winter months. At higher elevations, winter snows accumulate and persist until mid-summer. Summertime temperatures range from the high 80s to the mid 50s, with lows in the 30s at higher elevations.

The McKenzie River valley offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Nearly 500 miles of public trails are available on the McKenzie River Ranger District (formerly Blue River and McKenzie Ranger Districts), including two National Scenic Trails. Other summer outdoor offerings include mountain bicycling, whitewater rafting and kayaking, and golfing. The Ranger Station is situated on two nationally designated scenic byways, providing scenic vistas of waterfalls, interpretive trails and mountain landscapes. The district includes the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest, internationally known for its' research in ecological studies and ecosystem processes.

ABOUT THE EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY

Eugene <http://www.eugene-or.gov/portal/server.pt> is located in the Willamette Valley, with the Cascade Mountain Range to the east and the Coast Range to the west. It is about 110 miles south of Portland, Oregon. The elevation is 426 feet. The population is 126,325 within Eugene and 50,150 in adjacent Springfield <http://www.ci.springfield.or.us/>. Eugene is known as the "Track and Field Capital of the United States" and again hosted the Olympic Track Trials during the summer of 2008. Both Eugene and Springfield are located in Lane County <http://www.visitlanecounty.org/>. Average temperatures range from 36.9 F to 48.6 F in December and 51.2 F to 82.2 F in August. Average yearly rainfall is 46.6 inches, which occurs primarily from October to April. Significant snowfall in the valley is rare, however it occasionally snows in McKenzie Bridge between December and March, and sometimes the snow remains for a few weeks.