

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS (5) – We are looking to hire five graduate students to study the ecology, conservation, and management of tidal marsh birds throughout the U.S. mid-Atlantic and New England states. Some positions begin as early as fall 2010. The overall project will assess the current status of tidal-marsh-dependent species and establish regional and local conservation objectives for tidal-marsh bird communities from Maine to Virginia. Each student will be responsible for specific portions of the funded project and will also be expected to develop original work of their own for their thesis.

The project is led by a highly collaborative group of researchers from three universities, four state wildlife agencies, and the National Audubon Society, and includes many additional partners from state, federal, and non-governmental organizations in nine northeastern states. Students with interest and/or experience using quantitative tools and collaborating with diverse groups to address large-scale, conservation challenges are strongly encouraged to apply. Please contact the single institution below that matches your interest most closely, but indicate in your application whether you are interested in other positions as well. We are looking to hire students with exceptional quantitative, field, and communication skills for positions in:

1. Conservation Biology: Ph.D. Research Assistantship, based at the University of Delaware (starts Fall 2010). The successful candidate will be responsible for conducting and overseeing field data collection for salt marsh birds in Coastal New Jersey 2011 – 2013. The student will work closely with the collaborating institutions, the USFWS, and state agencies. The dissertation can focus on integrating landscape and local metrics to assess salt marsh bird community integrity, development of long-term salt marsh bird monitoring programs, breeding habitat selection, contaminants, or a topic developed by the successful candidate. Additional duties will include managing field work (including supervising a crew of technicians), assisting in database management, and working closely with all project collaborators. Successful applicants will have a firm foundation in statistics, mist-netting and nest searching experience, and must possess an MS degree in wildlife conservation, zoology, or related field. A 12-month stipend, tuition waiver, and reduced cost health benefits will be provided to the selected candidate. Applicants must meet the minimum University of Delaware and Departmental admission standards (GRE > 1050, GPA 3.0). Send applications to: Greg Shriver, University of Delaware.

2. Landscape Ecology: M.S. Teaching Assistantship, based at the University of Delaware (starts Fall 2010). The successful candidate will determine the effects of salt marsh management and local/landscape-scale variables on salt marsh bird communities. Additional duties will include managing field work (including supervising a crew of technicians), assisting in database management, and supporting department lab classes (mammalogy, wildlife habitat management, and ornithology) as a teaching assistant. Successful applicants will have a firm foundation in statistics, knowledge of eastern (tidal marsh and wetland) birds by sight and sound, and must possess a BS degree in wildlife conservation, zoology, or related field. A 9-month teaching stipend plus summer salary, tuition waiver, and reduced-cost health benefits will be provided to the selected candidate. Applicants must meet the minimum University of Delaware and Departmental admission standards (GRE > 1050, GPA 3.0). Send applications to: Greg Shriver, University of Delaware.

3. Breeding Ecology: Ph.D. position, based at the University of Maine (starts Fall 2010). The successful candidate will model latitudinal trends in seasonal fecundity for a suite of tidal marsh species and compare changes in nesting ecology with historical data. Additional duties will include managing a field site over three summers (2011-2013, including supervising a crew of technicians) at study sites in southern Maine and assisting in the database management for a web portal that will serve as a central clearinghouse for all collaborators. Successful applicants will have a firm foundation in statistics (demographic modeling experience preferred), mist-netting and nest searching experience, a perverse desire to stand out in the mud and make friends with parasitic insects, and the ability to work well with diverse folks that are (only slightly) unhinged. An MS in a related field is preferred. Send applications to: Brian Olsen, University of Maine.

4. Biogeography: M.S. position, based at the University of Maine (starts Fall 2010). The successful candidate will be co-advised by biologists from the University of Maine and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to map the current distribution and densities of the tidal marsh bird community from Connecticut to Maine and compare observed patterns with historical surveys. Additional duties will include surveying for tidal marsh birds and supervising multiple survey technicians across New England over two field seasons (2011-2012), communicating with and organizing data from numerous state and federal survey efforts across the region, and assisting in the database management for a web portal that will serve as a central clearinghouse for all collaborators. Successful applicants will have a BS in a related field, some background in statistics, knowledge of eastern (tidal marsh and wetland) birds by sight and sound, a valid driver's license, very strong organizational skills, a perverse desire to stand out in the mud and make friends with parasitic insects, and the ability to work well with diverse folks

that are (only slightly) unhinged. Send applications to: Brian Olsen, University of Maine.

5. Population Ecology: Ph.D. position, based at the University of Connecticut (starts May 2011). The successful candidate will have primary responsibility for survival analyses and demographic modeling. Additional duties will include managing field work at study sites in Connecticut and contributing to the development of decision support tools designed to help guide management and protection of tidal marsh properties. Preferred applicants will have mist-netting experience, good quantitative skills, and clear ideas about how they would develop a novel, independent dissertation project linked to the project's general goals. Successful candidates also must be physically fit, able to swim and jump across tidal ditches, willing to paddle a canoe/kayak and drive a large truck. It also helps a lot if you enjoy long days of muddy, wet, field work in the marsh. Send inquiries to: Chris Elphick, University of Connecticut.

Review of applications will begin immediately. Interested applicants should send (email preferred) a letter of interest, resume, unofficial transcripts, and GRE scores (unofficial scores are fine) to the Principal Investigator responsible for the ONE position they are most interested in (but note that we will examine all resumes with all positions in mind).

- Greg Shriver, gshriver @ udel.edu, 257 Townsend Hall, Dept. of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716-2160. More information at <http://udel.edu/~gshriver/>.
- Brian Olsen, brian.olsen @ maine.edu, 5751 Murray Hall, School of Biology & Ecology, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5751. More information at: <http://sbe.umaine.edu/olsen/>.
- Chris Elphick, chris.elphick @ uconn.edu, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, 75 N. Eagleville Road, U-43, Storrs, CT 06269-3043. More information at: <http://hydrodictyon.eeb.uconn.edu/people/birdlab/elphick.html>.