



Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

Research Technician

Employment Period:

April 1 - August 31, 2021

Salary:

\$3,000.00 per month with lodging provided.

The **Winous Point Marsh Conservancy** (WPMC), located just outside Port Clinton in Ottawa County, Ohio, is a non-profit conservation organization that maintains Ohio's largest privately-owned wetland (5000 acres). WPMC was established in 1999 to increase the natural resource contributions of the **Winous Point Shooting Club**, a private duck-hunting club founded in 1856 that has funded wetlands and wildlife research and training programs since 1949.

Job Description:

The WPMC research technician's main duty will be to assist the WPMC research biologist with annual program deliverables. This includes, but is not limited to, banding wood ducks, mallards, and black ducks, conducting secretive marsh bird surveys, assisting with various wetland-based graduate student projects, maintaining wood duck boxes and nesting purple martin colonies, and monitoring of nesting common tern colonies. Job duties are primarily outdoors and include some early morning and late afternoon duties, traversing wetlands in waders, and working in inclement weather. General knowledge and use of trucks, ATV's, kayaks, and small motorboats is required. GIS, strong writing skills, and VHF telemetry experience are preferred but not required. The research technician will also work closely with, and occasionally supervise and direct seasonal internship positions. Housing is provided in shared dormitory quarters, including kitchen and laundry, and will have access to laboratory and field equipment for research and recreational use.

Summer Duck Trapping: Primary goal is to trap 400 mallards and 150 wood ducks. Job duties include trap site scouting, swim-in trap establishment, daily trap maintenance and baiting post establishment. On trapping days, the research technician will be responsible for extracting ducks safely from trap and identifying age and sex of all mallards and wood ducks captured.

Common Tern Colony Monitoring: Research technician will be responsible for weekly monitoring of common tern nesting platforms at nearby agency-owned wildlife areas. Research technician duties will include monitoring fates of individually marked nests, banding fledglings with standard metal bands and color bands, and data collection, entry, and organization.

Purple Martin Colony Monitoring: Research technician will be responsible for monitoring 8 purple martin colonies, each with 18 nesting units. Duties include working with and overseeing interns and volunteers, setting up colonies in springtime; weekly monitoring to record egg-laying, hatching, and fledging data; disassembling and cleaning colonies after nesting season, and data entry and organization.

King Rail Trapping and Habitat Surveys: The research technician will work directly with supervising graduate student and their technician to trap, radio-mark, and radio-track marked king rails. Trapping techniques include both walk-in and whoosh net techniques. Telemetry will be performed with hand-help VHF equipment. Wetland habitat surveys will be conducted at known rail locations and random locations throughout the marsh. Furthermore, standardized secretive marshbird call playback surveys will be conducted at known rail locations to estimate vocalization rates.

Wood Duck Nest Box Monitoring: The research technician will be responsible for conducting periodic checks of established wood duck nest boxes. These checks will be used to monitor wood duck nest box use by a variety of cavity-nesting species, estimate nest initiation dates and nest success rates. The research technician will be responsible for accurate data collection and entry.

General: Assist grad students with their project needs. Assist other Winous Point Marsh Conservancy employees with various other duties.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will possess a strong work ethic and be able to work outdoors in undesirable conditions. They will also be able to supervise seasonal internship positions and exhibit decision making skills that allow for leadership with minimal oversight. Successful applicants will be familiar with data collection and entry and will have excellent organizational skills and attention to detail. Recent college graduates with experience and interest in wetlands and wildlife research and future interest in graduate school and/or wildlife careers are encouraged to apply.

Application Process:

Please mail or email (preferred) a cover letter outlining your interest, a resume, and three references to: John Simpson, Winous Point Marsh Conservancy, 3500 S Lattimore Road, Port Clinton, OH 43452. john@winous.org; (419) 341-5460. The deadline for applications is February 10 and we will arrange personal interviews and hire shortly thereafter.

Thank you,
John Simpson, Executive Director
C.J. White, Assistant Manager
Brendan Shirkey, Research Biologist