



Piping Plover Technician

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, southern Maine

Maine Audubon is hiring a Piping Plover Technician. This is a seasonal position at Maine Audubon, to be stationed at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. Maine Audubon works to conserve Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat by engaging people in education, conservation, and action.

Position Overview

The Piping Plover Technician will be responsible for monitoring and managing Piping Plovers on 6 private, federal or municipal beaches in southern Maine. The technician will also monitor a large Least Tern colony, migrating shorebirds and other terns. The technician will be responsible for training and overseeing the work of interns and volunteers. The technician will be under the direct supervision of the Refuge Biologist and will receive guidance, direction, and assistance from them. The technician will work cooperatively with Maine Audubon, the Wells Reserve and others to manage our beaches. The technician will abide by all federal and state regulations guiding management of this federally threatened, state endangered bird.

Duties and Responsibilities

Major duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Quantitatively monitoring territorial and nesting Piping Plovers on 6 beaches, including refuge, private and municipal lands.
- Identifying breeding territories, ensuring their prompt closure to public access, and adjusting closure areas throughout the season if
- Locating and monitoring nests and broods from laying to fledging as frequently as possible, while abiding by regional refuge system
- Exclosing nests when appropriate and organizing a team to erect the enclosure in a timely
- Conducting outreach and educational programs with private landowners and the general public.
- Using AGOL/Arc Collector to map management activities in field.
- Constructing and maintaining electric and symbolic fencing.
- Working cooperatively with private and municipal landowners.
- Monitoring activity of avian and mammalian predators on refuge beaches and reporting issues immediately to Refuge Biologist or Refuge Manager.
- Quantitatively monitoring Least Terns, including coordinating nest counts.
- Conducts daily check-ins with supervisor and compiles weekly and final reports on activities in the field regarding summaries of wildlife activity, visitor use and proposed management actions.
- Assists with other refuge or Maine Audubon projects when requested.
- Responsible for entering field data in electronic databases, or accurately on paper datasheets, and overseeing data entry and QC/QA of all data.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Wildlife, Environmental Science, or related field.
- Ability to perform the physical duties of the position including being able to hike long distances over sand and being able to lift and carry at least 50 pounds.
- Prior experience working with piping plovers or other beach nesting birds and supervising seasonal interns or volunteers.
- Able to identify Maine shorebirds and seabirds.
- Demonstrated excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Able to work with minimal supervision, be independent, and work with the public of all ages in a professional manner regarding sensitive conservation issues.
- Previous experience working in wildlife management setting, data collection, GPS/GIS skills, bird identification, and an academic background in wildlife biology, zoology, environmental science or a related field are preferred.
- Previous experience conducting outreach programs preferred.
- Valid driver's license and a social security number required.

Work Environment:

The job requires both office and outdoor work. Temperature and weather extremes may be encountered in the performance of outdoor work. Poison ivy and biting insects are common throughout the Refuge.

All work will be conducted with strict adherence to COVID-related federal policies.

Timing and Benefits

Full-time (40 hr/week), Seasonal Position, 17 Weeks

April 18 – August 12, 2022

Pay Rate: \$17.38/hr

Maine Audubon is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by law. Any job offers are contingent on a successful criminal background check.

To apply:

To apply, send cover letter, resume, contact information for three references, and college transcripts to: Hannah Young, hyoung@maineaudubon.org, with *RCNWR Piping Plover Technician* in the subject line. Please submit as one application package (.PDF) with YOUR NAME as the file name (ex. JaneDoe.pdf) to hyoung@maineaudubon.org by 11 February 2022.