



Loon Restoration Seasonal Wildlife Technician

Gilsland Farm, Falmouth

Maine Audubon is hiring three Seasonal Wildlife Technicians to join its dynamic team based in Falmouth, ME. Since 1843, Maine Audubon has worked to conserve Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat by engaging people in education, conservation, and action.

Position Description: We are seeking three Seasonal Wildlife Technicians to assist the Maine Loon Restoration Project. The Technicians report to the Coordinator of the Maine Loon Restoration Project and are responsible for working both independently and collaboratively with staff to empower and support groups of local community scientists on and off the water in implementing loon restoration actions. The positions are based at Gilsland Farm in Falmouth, but involve weekly field work, ranging statewide but primarily in Southern and Central Maine.

Project Overview

The Maine Loon Restoration Project is a 5-year partnership among Maine Audubon, Maine Lakes, Lakes Environmental Association, Penobscot Nation, and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The main goals are to increase loon nesting success at low productivity sites through the use of artificial nesting platforms, signage, and outreach, and decrease loon mortality by reducing the threat of lead poisoning from lead fishing tackle and deaths from boat strikes.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Work with lake volunteers to re-deploy 51 loon nesting rafts and identify candidate sites for new nesting platforms and signage on approximately 24 lakes using canoes, kayaks, or volunteers' motorboats. Coordinate all aspects of site visit preparation and follow up.
- Conduct site visits and train volunteers to monitor nesting and chick success at targeted sites during the breeding season and submit survey data.
- Maintain the database and grant tracking spreadsheets in Excel, Google Sheets and Survey 1-2-3, including entering information after each field visit or volunteer interaction, and working with participants throughout the season to improve data collection and entry.
- Conduct webinars, in-person outreach and training sessions for participants and the public.
- Train and oversee an intern to assist with planning, field work, data entry, raft building, presentations and other duties, ensuring an educational and supportive work experience.

- Assist partners at Maine Lakes in recruiting and supporting volunteers interested in the Look Out for Loons Outreach Program and help distribute outreach materials.
- Help promote Fish Lead Free initiatives by attending sporting shows, supporting retailers involved in lead tackle buyback and helping volunteers organize and host lead tackle exchanges and post lead tackle collection bins.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience in a relevant field.
- Effective, engaging, and diplomatic communicator both verbally and in writing.
- Excellent observational, time management, and organizational skills.
- Experience working with volunteers & achieving results through community science initiatives.
- Experience working in the field, preferably with birds and/or on lakes. Knowledge of loon natural history, behaviors, and conservation efforts a plus.
- Experience with data collection and management using ArcGIS Survey 123 preferred.
- Experience presenting information and leading dialogues in-person or on Zoom.
- Able to work both independently and in collaborative team environments.
- Willing to travel daily to the Falmouth office and to remote sites multiple times per week.
- First Aid and CPR training helpful.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Software and Google Apps.
- Clean driving record for the last 5 years.

We encourage you to apply if you believe you would be a good fit for this position, even if you don't meet all of the qualifications.

Physical Requirements/ Working Conditions

- This position requires frequent statewide travel and long field days, as well as office work. Occasional overnight stays, weekend, and evening work are required.
- This position has physical demands including the ability to use standard tools and safely lift and carry equipment weighing 50 lbs. or more.
- Able and willing to work outdoors on or near lakes in all weather conditions.
- Able to drive passenger vehicles and pickup trucks.
- Able to swim and paddle a kayak and canoe in variable conditions.

Timing, Compensation, and Benefits

- The position is full-time from mid-March to the end of August.
- Pay Rate \$17/hour or \$680/week.

- Benefits include Worker's Comp, paid time off, and a 4% contribution to a retirement plan.

To apply: Please send resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references in a single document to conserve@maineaudubon.org, with “**B120 Seasonal Wildlife Technician_[Your Last Name]**” in the subject line. Note that applications without a cover letter will not be considered. We will start reviewing applications on **January 2nd, 2024** and the application period closes on **January 10th, 2024**. The anticipated start date is March 18, 2024.

Maine Audubon is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or any other aspect of identity protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.