The INSTITUTE for BIRD POPULATIONS

David Cook, flickr

Bird-banding Technicians on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) seeks two bird banders to help re-establish and operate a cluster of Tropical Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (TMAPS) bird banding stations on the island of Rota, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PROJECT DATES: October 10 through December 20, 2026.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Working in a team of two, banding technicians will help restore a set of six mist-netting stations after a series of super typhoons which struck the island of Rota, and then operate those stations once re-established. Work involves vegetation clearing, mist-net operation, bird banding, handling of endangered species, and remote living on a tropical Pacific island.

REQUIREMENTS: We are looking for candidates with previous experience with bird banding, especially the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) protocol. Applicants must have prior skills in mist-netting, bird banding, and ageing and sexing of birds in the hand. Experience in handling endangered bird species and prior blood and feather sampling experience is a major plus. Applicants are strongly recommended to state the number and types of birds handled in their cover letter or resume.

We also need at least one candidate to have prior safety training and experience with chainsaw use. Applicants who have worked on trail crews or similar positions are encouraged to apply.

Other required skills include attention to detail, good physical condition, a tolerance of long days that begin before dawn, and the ability to endure sometimes difficult field conditions, including rugged terrain, biting and stinging insects, and tropical heat and humidity.

SCHEDULE: After orientation, the work schedule will generally be 3 days on followed by 1 day off, whether banding or setting up stations. Bird banding will be conducted from before sunrise to early afternoon, depending on weather. Expect the first month or two to involve lots of trail clearing and net lane setup, interspersed with banding as sites are re-established.

EQUIPMENT: Technicians are expected to provide their own binoculars and field clothing. Good hiking boots are a necessity.

COMPENSATION: For this position, the technician will be considered an INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and will receive payment of $3,300 per full month contracted, prorated based on the number of days on Rota. Contractor will **NOT** receive health insurance, worker's compensation, or any other fringe benefits. For this position, we require that all candidates have their own health insurance. Applicants will be provided with flights, free housing, and a work vehicle while on the island.

TO APPLY: Please send applications to Lauren Helton: lhelton (at) birdpop.org. Your submission should include a resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of up to three references. Professional references are preferred, but one reference may be a character reference. References are often slow to reply, so we encourage submitting more references to ensure your application can be quickly processed.

Application deadline: Open until filled. Application review will begin as applications are received.

IBP is an equal opportunity employer.

All applicants are considered for all positions without regard to race, religion, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, national origin, ancestry, physical/mental disability, medical condition, military/veteran status, genetic information, marital status, ethnicity, citizenship or immigration status, or any other protected classification, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. Equal access to programs, services, and employment is available to all qualified persons. Those applicants requiring an accommodation to complete the application and/or interview process should call 707-789-3224 or email IBPhumanresources@proton.me for assistance.