Title: Field Assistants (Americorps Internship) Avian Conservation (2)

Agencies: Kaua`i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project & Kaua`i Forest Bird Recovery Project, State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)

Location: Kauai, HI

Job description: Two Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps (Americorps) year-round internships are available for avian conservation work with the Kaua`i Endangered Seabird, and Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Projects during 2008. Interns will participate in work on both projects. Regular, Full-Time, 1700 hours (10-12 months) in duration. Start date between late Jan-early Mar 2007, to be determined. Must provide own travel to Kauai.

Kaua`i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project Duties:
Assists in carrying out research and management tasks for the recovery of Kauai's threatened and endangered seabirds, the Newell's shearwater (Puffinus newelli) and Hawaiian petrel (Pterodroma sandwichensis), two burrow nesting colonial seabirds breeding in high elevation Hawaii rainforest. Tasks include assisting with breeding success and relative abundance surveys (including ornithological radar, auditory point counts, night-vision, at-sea counts), research into factors limiting these populations (vegetation and predator surveys, seabird necropsies, stomach contents analyses) plus some management tasks, including predator control.

Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project Duties:
Will participate in research on the reproduction and life history of the federally endangered Puaiohi (Myadestes palmeri), radio-tracking and monitoring captive-bred Puaiohi after release, basic research on the factors limiting all of Kauai's imperiled native songbirds such as disease and habitat change, and other related activities. Field work includes camping for up to two weeks at a remote field site in the extremely wet, beautiful and rugged high-elevation forest of the Alakai Wilderness, near one of the wettest places in the world.

Common Duties:
Abundant enthusiasm for conserving Hawaii’s native species is essential, as are self-motivation, the ability to work well in a small team or solo, a positive attitude, plus willingness to live in either a remote permanent camp or backpacking for several days at a time. Careful data collection is a must, and when not in the field duties will include data entry and organization, report writing, maintenance of field equipment and living quarters, and other work around the office. Operates a motor vehicle and a variety of equipment for field studies. Some helicopter and small boat travel may be required and basic aviation and boating safety will be provided.
Minimum Qualifications: Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Individuals from 18-30 years of age are encouraged to apply. No previous experience is necessary to become an Americorps intern, however applicants for this particular program a) must be able to hike up to eight (8) miles on obscure trails with thirty to forty (30-40) pound backpack, b) must have some demonstrated experience working in remote areas, including off-trail navigation, c) must possess a valid drivers license, d) must be able to identify individual birds by color bands and sounds, and locate birds by their calls, and e) must have Basic First Aid certificate or be willing to undertake training paid for by Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps.

Desirable Qualifications: One to three (1-3) years of (paid or volunteer) experience in biological fieldwork. Experience with one or more of the following: seabird monitoring methods (breeding success, relative abundance), auditory point counts, operating ornithological radar, control methods for predators of seabirds, searching for and observing breeding songbirds, identifying birds by sound and sight, mist-netting and radio-tracking. It is desirable that applicants have some field experience and skills that are directly relevant to the work described above, but it is not expected that any applicant will be familiar with all the duties listed. One - three (1-3) years of a Biological Sciences degree from an accredited college or university. Familiarity with spreadsheets, databases, Microsoft Office and Geographic Information System (GIS) software (Arcview etc.). Experience working with Hawaiian forest birds and/or seabirds. Familiarity with native Hawaiian flora and fauna and local conservation issues. Familiarity with Kauai.

Salary: Interns will receive a monthly stipend of $1,200.00 as well as an additional educational award of $4,725.00 upon completion of the program (educational awards can be used for school loans, tuition, and other educational expenses). Other benefits include deferred student loans and if eligible, general health care and child care. Housing is available for the duration of this internship.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications are available online www.hawaiiycc.com or contact Sean Moura sean.moura@ponopacific.com phone: (808) 735-1221. Last date to apply 9 Nov 2007.