

♦ **Job Title:** [Volunteer bird field assistance for Samoan project](#)

Added here on 5 Feb 2011

**Job Type:** volunteer position

**Opportunity location:**

**Closing date (if specified):** No date specified (will remain here for 90 days from posting date)

**Opportunity Description:**

Position Description:

We're looking for one or two volunteer field assistants to help with research on some endangered bird species in the forests of Samoa. Our montane environment supports high endemic biodiversity and is very beautiful. Our research aims primarily focus on the ecology of the endangered Mao honeyeater but we collect data on all local bird species. We are also interested in doing more conservation education and we would be happy you if this is your interest!

Volunteers will work alongside experienced field biologists and local Samoan conservation staff and will be involved in the following tasks:

1. Capturing birds using a variety of techniques such as mistnetting (both low and high canopy)
2. Nest searches and monitoring
3. Mao monitoring via transmitter backpacks.
4. Transect surveys
5. General data entry and analysis or help with conservation education

Qualifications/Experience:

We are looking for volunteer research assistants with the following experience:

1. A background in biology/zoology/ecology or related field and an interest in the behaviour, ecology and conservation of birds.
2. Be physically fit, and capable of undertaking fieldwork and camping in a mountainous environment in hot and basic temperatures.
3. Be capable of working well as part of a team with local people.
4. Be reliable, responsible and motivated when it comes to following research protocols and methodologies, and an ability to work at unsociable hours when necessary.
5. Relevant experience of the project's field techniques particularly mistnetting birds
6. An individual with experience driving a four wheel drive or who has completed a 4X course would be favoured.

Salary/funding:

No salary is provided, although payment for contributing to certain elements of our research project may be possible in the future. Therefore you will need to cover your own food and accommodation costs in Apia. However assistance will be given to find low cost accommodation and local food costs are not high. All research equipment will be

provided. Volunteer research assistants will also be responsible for their own airfare and travel to Samoa and medical/travel insurance. Food and accommodation in the field will be provided.

**Benefits:**

You will have plenty of time off (in Samoa nobody works on Sundays) to be able to see beautiful areas and species. Have really interesting cultural experiences including learning to eat from the land (our field assistances are amazing at this!). Enjoy the beaches and snorkelling and yet learn new ecological techniques.

**Duration of Appointment:**

Positions are available from March 2011. We are looking for volunteers who are able to commit for a minimum of 2.5 months, although positions may be held for longer.

**For more info, contact:**

**Application Procedure and Deadlines:**

To apply, please submit a CV and covering letter to the project field manager Rebecca (rstirnemann@gmail.com) outlining your suitability for the role, relevant experience and duration and timing of your availability. There is no specific deadline and applications will be accepted until positions are filled. There is also the possibility of a shorter term mistnetting course please indicate if you are unsuccessful if you would be interested in this.

**Our Opportunity ID:** 17614