

AmeriCorps Year-Round Conservation Biology Intern Needed

Summary: USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center and Kupu Hawaii are sponsoring a year-round AmeriCorps intern to assist with conservation research aimed to understand distributions of endangered and rare Hawaiian Forest birds. The research will primarily involve assessing arthropod prey availability for the Kiwikiu (Maui Parrotbill) but will also involve determining nectar and habitat utilization by I'iwi and other nectarivorous birds. Depending upon availability of funds, the intern may also be involved in a study investigating the extent to which non-native ants have invaded native habitats.

Location: Based in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Benefits: The intern will receive \$600 every 2 weeks and a \$5,340 AmeriCorps educational award at the end of the term of the internship. Housing may be provided, if available, but food is not. Field gear, including pants, rain gear, and a backpack are supplied for the duration of the internship. Travel to and from Hawaii is the responsibility of the intern.

Duties: The intern's time will be divided between the field and the lab. Field work will consist of collecting arthropods from ground and tree canopy substrates, measuring nectar abundance, and characterizing habitat structure. Lab work will primarily be comprised of identifying and curating arthropods, data entry, assisting in data management and preparation of final products. Lab duties will include a considerable amount of microscope work.

Desired qualifications: Preference is given to applicants with experience collecting, sorting and identifying insects and other arthropods; observing birds; measuring habitat structure; and working with Excel spreadsheets and GIS software. Field work requires a high degree of physical fitness and sometimes involves hiking long distances (up to 14 miles in a day) and over rugged, steep terrain. The ability (with training) to climb trees using single rope techniques may be required.

Field Site: Field work will take place in and around Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Hawaii Island and at Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Hanawi Natural Area Reserve and Waikamoi Preserve on Maui.

To apply: Applicants must apply through KUPU at <http://www.kupuhawaii.org/hawaii-youth-conservation-corps/apply-now/year-round-program/>. The application deadline is August 15, 2011. The internship begins in October 2011 and lasts for 10-12 months. Applicants should send a cover letter and resume to Bob Peck at rpeck@usgs.gov by August 5th so they can be identified within the general pool of KUPU applications. Contact KUPU with questions concerning the application and monetary benefits of the program.