

Año Nuevo Island Seabird Conservation 2020 Internship: Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge



Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge is seeking one to two highly motivated volunteer interns to work with our seabird conservation science project at Año Nuevo Island, a seabird and marine mammal refuge just north of Santa Cruz. We annually monitor the ecology of breeding seabirds on the island, as well as enhancing degraded breeding habitat for nesting Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets. The intern will work with our crew during weekly field trips to Año Nuevo Island, collecting data on population and reproduction of various seabird species.

This is a unique opportunity to learn skills such as bird banding and handling, scientific monitoring, and habitat restoration in a hands-on, wild field setting. This is also an opportunity to learn about the natural history and ecology of the Monterey Bay. We seek more applications from people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including people of all races and sexual identities, and those from traditionally underrepresented groups in the biological sciences.

We are seeking interns who can commit to the full breeding season. This season runs for six months: April 1st - September 1st. Start date is not flexible, end date is potentially flexible. Interns must be able to commit to at least 1 (preferably 2) full days a week in the field, including approximately 8 overnight trips between April and July; trips are always the same day(s) of the week. Carpools are provided weekly from Santa Cruz to the field site. For more information about the project, see our website <http://oikonos.org/ano-nuevo-island/>.

Anyone who is interested in gaining experience in seabird conservation may apply for this internship. However, we cannot legally sponsor foreign applicants. If enrolled at UC Santa Cruz, you can receive credit for a 5-unit internship during Spring quarter. Possibilities for senior exit internships exist as well.



Breeding birds on Año Nuevo Island: Black Oystercatcher, Western Gull, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet.



2019 Intern Sierra with Rhinoceros Auklet chick

- Performing restoration work such as planting, watering, installing erosion control material, and other manual labor tasks associated with habitat restoration.
- Depending on intern interest, there are opportunities to learn data entry, management, and analysis skills, outreach and fundraising skills, and science writing skills, though these are not required.

Internship duties include:

- Monitoring seabird population and reproduction during weekly one-day trips to Año from April 1st-September 1st. Duties include taking standardized and rigorous data, weekly nest checks, banding and measuring seabirds, capturing seabirds with mist nets, and field station maintenance and upkeep.
- 7-8 overnight trips to Año Nuevo Island, mainly during May and July. Interns must be available all day for the two consecutive days for these trips. Overnight trips sometimes include night work (until approximately 1 AM) capturing and banding seabirds.



Brandt's Cormorant colony, old Lightkeeper's House in the background



Intern monitoring Pelagic Cormorants nests on cliffs

Internship prerequisites include:

- Enthusiasm for conservation science, especially seabirds
- Ability to write legibly by hand and keep organized and rigorous field data
- Ability to do regular heavy lifting (up to 50 pounds)
- Ability to work with wildlife in challenging field conditions: Año Nuevo Island can be very windy, hot, cold, or smelly; during breeding season gulls can dive-bomb you, scream at you, and defecate on you. Ability to keep a positive attitude under these conditions is essential.

Desired skills:

- Degree in or enrollment in degree program in field related to conservation biology
- Basic swimming ability and comfortability with riding in small boats on the ocean; transportation to the island is in a small zodiac and launching involves wading up to chest-deep in water on uneven footing.
- Previous field experience working with/handling wild birds
- Previous experience with Excel, R, and/or ArcGIS
- Skills in art or photography



Boat trip across channel

To apply, please send a **cover letter** with a description of why you are interested in the internship, a **resume** with pertinent school, job, or volunteer experience, and at least one

reference to project managers Jessie Beck and Ryan Carle. The application window is open from November 1, 2019 to January 30, 2020.

Contact:

Jessie Beck

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Ryan Carle

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Brown Pelican sunset