



## **Año Nuevo Island seasonal seabird intern job description & application**

20 hours a week, \$16/hour, April 1-Sept 1, 2022

Application closes February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge seeks two highly motivated individuals to work on a seabird conservation science project at Año Nuevo Island, California, a seabird and marine mammal refuge 30 minutes north of Santa Cruz and 1km offshore. This position is aimed at early career individuals (recent college graduates or those currently enrolled in college) interested in gaining ecology, wildlife biology, and conservation experience. We encourage applications from people from diverse backgrounds and experiences, including people of all races and sexual identities, and those from traditionally underrepresented groups in the biological sciences.

Interns will learn about seabird research techniques and science-driven conservation solutions while monitoring the breeding ecology of seven species of breeding seabirds on the island (cormorants, auklets, gulls, oystercatchers and pigeon guillemots), and contributing to habitat restoration for nesting Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets.



*Doris Duke Conservation Scholar Kyra holding a Cassin's Auklet*

This is a unique opportunity to learn skills such as:

- bird banding and handling
- scientific monitoring of breeding seabirds
- standardized data collection methods and data management
- working effectively with a team in a wild field setting
- habitat restoration techniques



Most work is field-based. Field work is 1-2 day long trips to Año Nuevo Island each week. Interns will spend 1-2 days a week working in the office in Santa Cruz, California with field leaders. The amount of office time will vary depending on how many days we spend in the field. Field work is conducted entirely outside on Año Nuevo Island, which is often windy, cold, hot, or smelly, and is always full of birds. Our field days take up the entire day, and leaving early for other commitments is typically not possible. The island is accessed by an inflatable Zodiac style boat with an outboard motor and requires crossing a 1 km ocean channel. Interns must provide their own housing, preferably in or near Santa Cruz. Access to a personal vehicle is helpful but not required. On occasional overnight trips, we sleep inside in a historic (rustic but safe) building.



*Cassin's auklets raise chicks in underground nests.*

**Duties include:**

- Working on a team of five to monitoring seabird population and reproduction during weekly single day trips (10 hours/week) and 4 – 5 overnight trips during June and July (20 hours/week)
- Collecting standardized data, checking nests, banding and measuring seabirds, capturing seabirds with mist nets
- Performing restoration work such as planting, watering, installing erosion control material, and other physical tasks associated with habitat restoration
- Field station maintenance and upkeep
- Entering and proofing data, and other computer based project tasks involving using Microsoft Word and Excel

**Internship qualifications include:**

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



*We travel to the island in a small boat with an outboard motor, by crossing a 1 km ocean channel*

**Desired skills:**

- Degree in or enrollment in degree program in a field related to conservation biology
- Basic swimming ability and comfort 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.

**Duration:** April 1<sup>st</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup>. Start date is not flexible, end date is potentially flexible. Field trips are on the same 1-2 days each week (tbd which days); must be able to commit to a consistent field schedule and 20 hours total a week.

**NOTE for applicants currently enrolled in college:** It is difficult to be concurrently enrolled in courses and complete this position, due to the amount of time (20 hrs/week) and flexibility required for the job. If you are enrolled in courses, please specify your availability and course load in your application. If you are interested in receiving academic credit for this position as an internship or senior project, please also indicate that in your cover letter.

**Compensation: \$16/hour**

**To apply,** please send a **cover letter**, a **resume** with pertinent school, job, or volunteer experience, and two **references** to project manager Jessie Beck at [jessie@oikonos.org](mailto:jessie@oikonos.org). Applications will be accepted until 11:59 PM on February 22nd, 2022.

**In your cover letter, in addition to generally describing your interest in this position, please answer the following questions:**

- What is your previous experience with birds/wildlife biology/field science?
- How will this position help you with your career goals?
- What personal or professional challenges have you faced in pursuing your interest in a career in field conservation biology?
- What is something in the natural world that you relate to, and why? (this is not a trick question, we just want to get to know you).



*Doris Duke Scholar Tahiry measuring the growth of a Rhinoceros Auklet chick*