



Año Nuevo Island Seabird Research and Conservation Internship

Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge is seeking two highly motivated volunteer interns to work with our seabird conservation science project at Año Nuevo Island, California, during spring and summer 2018. This is a volunteer internship and we cannot offer a stipend or housing. Año Nuevo Island is a seabird and marine mammal refuge just north of Santa Cruz. We annually monitor the ecology of breeding seabirds on the island, and enhance degraded breeding habitat for nesting Rhinoceros Auklets, Cassin's Auklets, and other seabirds. Interns will work with our small crew during weekly field trips to Año Nuevo Island, collecting data on population, reproduction, and diet of various seabird species. This is a unique opportunity to learn skills such as bird banding and handling, scientific monitoring, habitat restoration, and the natural history of marine wildlife in Monterey Bay, in a hands-on, wild field setting.

We are seeking interns who can commit to weekly trips for the full breeding season, from April 1st through September 1st (end date is flexible). Interns must be able to commit to at least 1 full day a week in the field, as well as periodic overnight trips spanning two days (around 6-8 overnights total); trips are always the same days of the week. Also required is enthusiasm for working long days outdoors in challenging field conditions in a landscape dominated by wildlife. For more background on the project, see our website <http://oikonos.org/ano-nuevo-island/>.

Anyone interested in gaining experience in seabird conservation may apply for this internship. We encourage applications from people from traditionally underrepresented groups in the biological sciences. Students at UC Santa Cruz can receive credit for a 5-unit internship in Spring quarter. Possibilities for UCSC senior exit internships exist as well. This internship is part of Oikonos' "Wings and Fins" Marine & Island Conservation Career Training Program: for more information about this program see <http://oikonos.org/wingsandfins/>

Internship duties include:

- Monitoring seabird population and reproduction during weekly one-day trips to Año Nuevo Island. 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.
- 6-8 overnight trips to Año Nuevo Island, mainly during May and July. Interns must be available all day for two consecutive days for these trips. Some overnight trips include night work (until 1 AM) capturing and banding seabirds.
- Performing habitat restoration work such as planting, watering, installing erosion control material



- Depending on intern interest, data analysis project working toward thesis or journal publication

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 will dive-bomb you, scream at you, and defecate on you
- Ability to swim
- Comfortability 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

Desired skills:

- Degree in or enrollment in degree program in field related to conservation biology
- Previous field experience working with/handling wild birds
- Previous experience with data collection/management

To apply, please send a cover letter with a description of why you are interested in the internship and a resume detailing pertinent experience to Ryan Carle at ryan@oikonos.org. Application deadline is December 10th, 2017.