



WILDLIFE PRESERVATION CANADA
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Position: Shrike Recovery Field Intern (2)
Project: Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery
Location: Carden Alvar or Napanee Limestone Plain, Ontario
Type of Position: Full-time (37.5 hr/wk), temporary (16 weeks)
Rate of Pay: \$17.00/hr, plus 4% vacation pay; field accommodation to be provided by WPC
Anticipated Start: 6 May 2024
Hours of Work: Flexible daily and weekly schedule to suit project needs and weather conditions. Working weekends will be required.

****NOTE:** These positions are dependent on external funding yet to be received by WPC, so start date and duration of contract may be adjusted as funding is confirmed**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Wildlife Preservation Canada is seeking two summer interns to assist with the implementation of the Loggerhead Shrike (LOSH) Recovery Program in Ontario. Two positions will be filled, one each in the Carden and Napanee regions. The Loggerhead Shrike is critically endangered with fewer than 50 birds found annually in Ontario in recent years. The Carden and Napanee Alvares are the two core areas where LOSH continue to breed, though sightings still occur in Smiths Falls, Pembroke/Renfrew, Grey-Bruce and Manitoulin, and some work may occur in those regions. Wildlife Preservation Canada has been managing this unique recovery program since 2003; activities include wild population surveying and monitoring, captive breeding and release, and habitat stewardship.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Area Shrike Biologist, interns will be responsible for monitoring the wild population in their designated core area, and the care and soft-release of groups of captive-hatched juveniles (transferred to release sites from one of the program's breeding facilities over July-August); this offers a unique opportunity to work first-hand with an endangered species and the chance to gain experience in animal care and population recovery techniques in a field setting.

Specific duties will include:

- Road-side and on-site (with prior permission) surveys to locate breeding pairs of LOSH
- Remote nest monitoring to determine nest productivity
- Identification and reporting of all colour banded LOSH
- Release site and enclosure preparation and maintenance
- Daily care and husbandry of captive young prior to release during July and August (behavioural observations and provision of live food)
- Care and maintenance of invertebrate food colonies (crickets and mealworms) and live mice
- Soft-release of young; post-release monitoring and supplemental feeding
- Release site and enclosure preparation and maintenance
- Assisting with banding of all captive young prior to release
- Attachment of remote tracking devices to a subset of captive young prior to release

- Data management and assisting with monthly reports
- Additional tasks as required

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Some post-secondary education in a relevant discipline
- Strong interest in biology, conservation, and fieldwork
- Ability to work professionally and safely in variable weather with exposure to biting insects.
- Prior experience with bird monitoring/surveying.
- Able to navigate in the field using a map, compass, and GPS.
- Strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to maintain positive relationships with private landowners, coworkers, and other project partners.
- Willingness to live in rustic field quarters.
- A valid G-class driver's license, and access to a vehicle for the duration of the contract is preferred.

ASSET SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Experience with nest searching, colour band identification, and call playback surveys
- Previous bird handling and/or banding experience
- Familiarity and/or experience with animal husbandry practices
- Science communication skills, including virtual and in-person presentations

TO APPLY

Please complete the application form for this position found on our website (<https://wildlifepreservation.ca/work-with-us/>) and submit with your cover letter and resume (cover letter and resume as a single PDF or Word document) to jane.spero@wildlifepreservation.ca. Applications will be assessed as they are submitted, so early applications are encouraged. Applications will not be considered after midnight (EST) March 3, 2024.

Saving endangered species requires contributions of people of diverse backgrounds, heritage, knowledge, experiences, and identities, though many of these voices have been excluded from conservation. WPC is committed to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in our organization, and we welcome applications from all qualified individuals. We encourage those from historically marginalized groups—including racialized, Indigenous, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, those with differing abilities, and other equity-deserving groups—to self-identify in their cover letter, if they feel comfortable, so we may consider their application accordingly.

This position may be funded by government youth employment initiatives which require candidates to be:

- No more than 30 years of age at the start of employment;
- A Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person on whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act; and
- legally entitled to work according to the relevant Ontario legislation and regulations.

We thank all who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.