

David L Nieland

Subject: Boat Captain and Piping Plover Technician in New York

The Virginia Tech Shorebird Lab is hiring a boat captain/piping plover technician for our Fire Island, NY field site.

The position will run from April 1, 2016–September 30, 2016. Monitoring the response of Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) and their invertebrate prey to habitat created by Hurricane Sandy. The boat captain will be working with field technicians to improve conservation efforts for Northeast Atlantic population of Piping Plovers. This project is just one of multiple shorebird projects based at Virginia Tech. Please see our project webpage <http://fishwild.vt.edu/vtshorebirds/> for more information about shorebird conservation at Virginia Tech.

Primary responsibility is marine navigation in the Great South Bay of Long Island, NY, including daily transport of field technicians to barrier island study sites, boat trailering, and boat maintenance. Other responsibilities include trapping, banding and resighting adult Piping Plovers, nest searching and monitoring, invertebrate collection and identification, capturing, banding and resighting Piping Plover chicks, daily trailering of ATVs, daily driving of 4x4 vehicles and driving ATVs on the beach, working closely with land management agencies and the Fish and Wildlife Service, data organization and management.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science, Biology, Environmental Science, or a related field. Experience navigating in the Intracoastal Waterway, navigating by GPS, boating in shallow waters and foggy conditions in a small out-board motor boat, and repairing and maintaining motor boats. Resighting color bands is an essential job function. Candidates should be able to distinguish colors at a distance. Preference for candidate with prior experience as a field technician or research assistant and experience with trailering, driving 4x4 vehicles and ATVS in sand. Avian capture methods and handling techniques, color band resighting, bird banding, and shorebird identification are preferred, but training will be provided. Candidates must be able to work as part of team and independently, and keep a positive attitude through long field days (up to 12 hours/day and 6 days/week) in a variety of field conditions. Candidates should be in good physical condition, as the job requires walking 5-10 miles in sand while carrying a spotting scope and other research equipment on a daily basis.

Please send resume, college transcripts, and contact information for three references (in ONE document, formatted as LastName_FirstName_2016) to Audrey DeRose-Wilson at li.pipingplover@gmail.com. The positions will remain open until filled.

Full position description: <http://wfscjobs.tamu.edu/jobs/boat-captain-and-piping-plover-technician-new-york/>