

Avian Crew Leader (1), Technician (1), Intern (1) – Seed Dispersal by Native Birds on Saipan, Mariana Islands

Description:

These 3 positions are part of a larger collaborative project between J. Savidge (Colorado State University), H. Rogers (Rice University, www.ecologyofbirdloss.org) and J. Tewksbury (WWF International, University of Washington) aimed at restoring ecosystem function (specifically seed dispersal) to Guam's forests. Virtually all native seed dispersers have been extirpated from Guam, largely due to predation by the invasive Brown Treesnake. We aim to determine the impact of seed disperser loss and the potential for different dispersers to restore function to Guam's forests. The positions will be based in Saipan, 120 miles north of Guam, and will support research on diets and habitat use of 4 native avian frugivores (White-throated Ground-Dove, Mariana Fruit-Dove, Bridled White-eye, and Micronesian Starling). These species are extirpated or nearly extirpated from Guam but still common on Saipan.

The avian field crew will track radio-collared birds, operate mist-nets, collect fecal samples from netted birds and identify seeds in the samples, and enter data collected. On occasion, the crew may be needed to help with other aspects of the larger project. In addition to field work, the crew leader, in collaboration with a postdoc stationed on Saipan, will help: i) schedule tasks for crew members to meet monthly goals; ii) train new crew members; iii) communicate regularly with the postdoc; and iv) help manage project data including data quality.

Qualifications:

We seek exceptionally motivated applicants with strong interest in avian ecology and conservation. The crew will be supervised by a project postdoc that will participate in field aspects as needed. A B.S. degree or higher in a related field is required (although experienced undergraduates that can take an extended leave from studies will be considered for the intern position). The ability to work as a team and independently is required. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and be eligible to work in the U.S. Experience with GPS and orienteering is highly desirable. Applicants should be comfortable working long hours in high temperatures and humidity, be willing to have a flexible schedule (night tracking to identify roosting locations and early morning netting, any day of the week), and be willing to tolerate at times tedious work (sorting fecal samples for seeds). Individuals should be physically fit and able to walk over rough limestone terrain carrying awkward loads (telemetry and netting equipment). In return, you will experience living and working on a beautiful Pacific island and being part of an exciting conservation effort!

Crew Leader: We seek applicants with extensive wildlife field experience, prior supervisory experience or demonstrated potential, and strong organizational skills including attention to detail. The crew leader will be a member of the field team. Applicants must have experience in radiotelemetry and mist-netting and banding birds. Previous experience in tropical island ecosystems is desirable.

Technician: Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrated wildlife field experience including previous experience with radiotelemetry and capturing birds with mist-nets.

Intern: We are seeking applicants with previous experience in field research and a willingness to learn new techniques. Experience with radiotelemetry and mist-netting is preferred but not required.

Start Date: Anticipated April 2015 or soon thereafter. These are 8-9-month positions (depending on start date), with potential for renewal the following year.

Payment: Crew leader (\$13.50/hr), Technician (\$10/hr), Intern (\$550/mo). A round-trip ticket from the candidate's current place of residence to Saipan, shared housing, and access to transportation (shared vehicle) will be

provided, if needed.

Application Procedure: To apply, email a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references to Dr. Julie Savidge, julie.savidge@colostate.edu. The cover letter should highlight your previous relevant experience, indicate which position(s) you are applying for, and your dates of availability. These materials should be in a single Word or pdf document. Applications should be submitted by 8 February, however, positions will be filled as suitable applicants are found.

For more information contact: Dr. Julie Savidge, julie.savidge@colostate.edu.