

AVIAN CONSERVATION HUSBANDRY INTERNSHIP

White Oak conserves and sustains some of the earth's rarest species through sustainable conservation breeding, education, and responsible land stewardship. The conservation programs span 700 acres along the St. Marys River in northeast Florida, surrounded by 17,000 acres of mixed forest and wetlands that make up the beautiful White Oak property. White Oak's animal programs are widely recognized for their natural environments and large spaces, species appropriate social structures and regularly reproducing populations. The low intensity management style results in animals that exhibit natural behaviors and resiliency, making them prime candidates for recovery and release programs.

The *Avian Conservation Husbandry Internship* provides participants hands on management experience with conservation breeding populations of avian species. The internship offers direct experience working alongside staff in all aspects of animal care. Selected interns will work within the avian team caring for species such as cassowary, grasshopper sparrows and a variety of crane and curassow species. The avian team is actively involved in three regional reintroduction programs, with a strong in-situ/ex-situ interface. Candidates should have a keen interest in avian ecology, diverse management methods, and direct conservation impact.

Skills, Experiences, and Duties:

Interns will have a detailed list of learning objectives which may include:

- Animal husbandry – general feeding and cleaning
- Animal behavior and observation, including reproduction and parental care
- Netting, handling and restraint methods
- Diet preparation and medication
- Egg management and artificial incubation
- Assisted reproduction techniques
- Reintroduction strategies and conservation efforts
- Sample collection
- Enclosure maintenance
- Intra-facility transportation
- Observation of veterinary care and necropsies



Through additional volunteer hours, interns may also gain experience in ungulates, carnivores, conservation research, veterinary care, and program management (as available).

Internship Specifics:

2021 Avian Sessions				
Session	Apply	Review	Start Date*	End Date*
Spring	Sept. 1-30 th 2020	October 2020	1/13/2021	5/16/2021
Fall	April 1-30 th 2021	May 2021	8/11/2021	1/9/2022

*Dates for the internship sessions are tentative, and may be altered



The *Avian Conservation Husbandry Internship* is a 40 hour a week, paid internship. The selected candidate will receive a \$1,466 monthly stipend, before taxes, and is eligible for free housing at White Oak for the duration of the internship. Interns receiving housing will share an apartment with another intern of the same gender. The work schedule will include weekends and holidays, and interns will be asked to help with after-hours duties. White Oak provides transportation to and from the

Jacksonville airport (for initial pick-up and final drop-off only). Interns have access to select White Oak amenities including a fitness center and swimming pool. Housing for pets and/or spouses is not available. White Oak reserves the right to terminate internships at any time. There will be no guarantee of employment at the end of the internship. To avoid conflicts, the selected candidate will not be eligible for job openings at White Oak that occur during the internship.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Candidates must have previous experience working with animals, domestic or exotic, with preference to prior avian experience.
- Candidates should be currently enrolled, or recently graduated (less than 2 years) from high school, college or university, with a career focus that reflects White Oak's mission- conservation biology, wildlife management, animal science, veterinary, research, or education.
- Candidates should be self-motivated, able to work well alone and with others, and willing to learn new skills and make the most of the internship experience.
- Candidates must be at least 18 years, have proof of a valid driver's license and health insurance, and pass a drug test upon the start of the internship.
- Commitment to a 40-hour work week, the selected schedule and individual work duties is required.
- Candidates must be able to lift 50 lbs. without difficulty, work in adverse weather conditions, and remain on their feet for long periods of time.
- Candidates must be legally able to work in the United States (US Citizen, Permanent Resident, or hold an Employment Authorization Document)

How to Apply:

All candidates will submit in ONE DOCUMENT a resume/CV, 3 professional reference's contact information, and a cover letter explaining their career goals and how the internship will help them achieve those goals. Please specify in the cover letter if housing will be necessary. Please only apply within the application periods designated. Only electronic submissions will be accepted (.doc, .docx, or .pdf only). Please send application materials to training@white-oak.org with the subject line: Avian Conservation Husbandry Internship Application.

