



Lake Michigan Bird Observatory

Our mission is to advance the conservation of birds in Wisconsin and throughout the Western Great Lakes Region through coordinated research, monitoring, and education.

- a. **Position Title:** Conservation Field Technician Intern
- b. **Description:** The Lake Michigan Bird Observatory's mission is to advance the conservation of birds in Wisconsin and throughout the Western Great Lakes Region through coordinated research, monitoring, and education.

The primary responsibilities of the Conservation Field Technician intern are to help launch our biochar pilot project, collect data for the Observatory's Neighborhood Habitat Improvement Project (NHIP) and promote our pillar programs within the community and by working alongside volunteers. Our multi-phased biochar project involves kiln construction to produce the soil amendment, testing its ability to capture nutrients and studying its impacts in urban tree planting as a mechanism to sequester carbon and mitigate negative impacts of climate change in historically and systematically underserved communities. The NHIP program is a collaborative partnership-based educational and community science program that helps communities and individuals make good local decisions to benefit birds, water, and pollinators. Tasks will include helping with the production and testing of biochar, facilitating and refining the "charging" process of soaking the biochar product in overly nutrient-rich local waterways to absorb nutrients prior to use in tree planting; collecting nesting bird data, water quality and aquatic macroinvertebrate monitoring data, and vegetation biodiversity plot-based surveys. The primary supervisor of this position is the Director of Conservation Partnerships, Joanna Demas (jdemas@lmbo.org). The Observatory's Executive Director, Jenn Philips-Vanderberg (jpv@lmbo.org) will be the secondary supervisor.

- c. **Location:** The Lake Michigan Bird Observatory is located at 116 W. Grand Ave. Suite 111 Port Washington, WI 53074. Port Washington is adjacent to Milwaukee County, roughly 35-miles north of the city of Milwaukee. There is a daily shuttle from Milwaukee to Ozaukee County that LMBO staff could offer transportation to and from. Our NHIP program has been piloted in the Port Washington area and has expanded to communities along the Lake Michigan coast of Wisconsin. Local travel (within Port Washington) to nest box location and vegetation plots will be required. Local travel is bike-friendly, and a bicycle is available for use. 90% of the work will be conducted in the field; 10% hybrid. We can be flexible in the scheduling hours and days of work. Occasionally, travel to Racine and Kenosha may be needed to work with NHIP partner agencies, carpooling and an organizational vehicle may be available for extended travel.

d. Requirements:

Required Qualifications

- Appreciation for bird, land, and natural resource conservation

- Detail-oriented and organized.
- Able to work independently and display efficient time management.
- Strong interpersonal skills and abilities to work in groups and across cultural differences.
- Experience with project execution and coordination
- Will need a driver's license, with a good driving record.

Preferred Qualifications

- Have or be working towards a college degree with a focus in ornithology, conservation, wildlife, biology, ecology, natural sciences or a related field.
- Experience or awareness about collecting technical science data and using standard forestry tools.*
- Knowledge of biochar as a mechanism to mitigate climate change.*
- Experience using iTree eco platform and Nestwatch database.*
- Comfortable with and committed to safe usage and operation of hand and power tools.
- Intern with reliable personal automobile vehicle is preferred. (If transportation is an obstacle, please do still apply, we can work to find a solution.)

*The onboarding process will cover these elements, please do still apply even if you don't have this experience already but are interested in learning.

e. Physical Duties:

- Ability to work in difficult terrain, under adverse field conditions and during inclement weather (heat, sun, humidity, rain, biting insects, etc.) with limited time indoors.
- Ability to perform physically demanding tasks including lifting, shoveling, stooping, bending, hauling, kneeling, and other motions for extended periods of time.

f. Gear Needed:

- Field attire for all weather conditions
- A laptop computer or tablet.*
- A smart phone with a data package.*

*If access to technology is an obstacle, please do still apply, we can work together to find a solution.

g. Pay Rate: \$12.00 - \$15.00/hour

h. Supervisor Contact Information:

Joanna Demas, Director of Conservation Partnerships
jdemas@lmbo.org
 262.424.6854