

COASTAL SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION FIELD INTERNSHIP/VOLUNTEER (SOUTH AFRICA, WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER)

Join summer shorebird conservation research on South Africa's gorgeous coastal Garden Route!

ORGANIZATION: Nature's Valley Trust

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 6

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 30 June 2016, but positions filled as qualified applicants are selected.

DURATION: 3-6 months (3 month minimum)

- Breeding season runs Sept. 2016 to April 2017, with flexibility for internship timing.
- You will have most time in the field from Sept. to Jan.; if you choose an internship from Jan., please be advised there is less field work, but carries the benefit of focusing on data management & analysis.
- For those located in South Africa or SADC area, this is a great opportunity for summer break! In the N. Hemisphere, this is a fantastic alternative study abroad option!

DUTIES:

- Fieldwork involves on-foot beach surveys for breeding & nesting, nest checks, other field observations on predation, disturbance, and tourism use of beaches.
- Taking of scientific field notes, data entry & checking.
- Installation, maintenance, and distribution of awareness materials (brochures, signage, nest protection).
- Engaging with public beach visitors, community members, and school groups regarding conservation awareness, education, and mitigation techniques.
- Producing educational & awareness materials, participation in related events.
- Miscellaneous administrative tasks and project involvement.
- 5-6 working days per week, including weekends and public holidays.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Self-motivated, able to work independently & with others while following methodology & procedure.
- Trustworthy, show integrity & dedication to making accurate observations, sense of responsibility/accountability.
- Observational skills, with particular attention to detail.
- An interest in birds and coastal conservation research.
- Physical fitness, willingness to spend long hours in the field in potentially averse conditions (i.e. up to 12 hrs walking in soft sand & some coastal rock scrambling, in summer heat with salt spray & wind, while carrying pack).
- Ability to obtain necessary visa (some informational assistance available).
- Preferably have or be studying toward a qualification in a related biological field, such as Zoology, Ecology, Ornithology, Conservation Biology, Environmental Science, Nature Conservation, Science Communication/Education, Wildlife/Natural Resource Management, etc.
- Some field experience with birding, nest searching, colour band re-sighting, animal tracking, and/or bird handling would be advantageous, but is not necessary. Your willingness to learn & actively participate is most important!
- Some experience with GPS/GIS technology & software beneficial.
- Ability to engage with the public regarding research & conservation.

PERKS:

- Residing in Nature's Valley, on South Africa's Garden Route, a stunning location surrounded by beautiful beaches, mountains, & breathtaking landscapes, with plenty of outdoorsy & adventurous activities for off time.
- Working with a fantastic, award-winning environmental NGO on a highly impactful project!
- You will get much individual support & hands-on training in the field.
- This experience is highly applicable to many shorebird conservation programs conducted around the world, particularly the United States (i.e. Snowy & Piping Plovers).
- Opportunity for involvement in other projects (bird banding, education programs, etc.).

COST:

- R4,500 per month (\pm 300 US\$, \pm £200), which covers shared housing/utilities, field transportation, office space (including WiFi), program participation, & mentoring.
- The Nature's Valley Trust and university unfortunately cannot offer assistance with travel costs, food, or other living expenses. Cost of living is relatively low in South Africa.

CONTACT:

- If interested, please send your CV & short letter of motivation, with the e-mail subject line "SHOREBIRD