VERMONT CENTER FOR ECOSTUDIES
Uniting People and Science for Conservation

# Avian Ecology Field Technician

## Organizational Background

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) is a preeminent conservation organization in New England that advances wildlife and habitat conservation through research, monitoring, and community engagement. Our biologists investigate ecological relationships across scales, from mercury pollution in songbirds to insect migratory ecology. VCE is located along the Connecticut River in the vibrant community of White River Junction, Vermont. Our staff is committed to creating a compassionate and inclusive workplace culture that values the physical and emotional well-being of all employees.

## Position Summary

VCE seeks to hire an avian ecology field technician to assist with field tasks associated with VCE's avian research projects during the summer.

(1) *Mt. Mansfield Songbird Research Program* (May-July). The technician will assist with weekly banding efforts to monitor the high-elevation bird community of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont. Duties include conducting target and passive netting, collecting biological samples (blood and fecal), entering data, and occasional public outreach. There may also be opportunities for deploying various tracking technologies (e.g., Motus nanotags).

(2) *Backyard Pesticide Project (*May-August)*.* The technician will monitor birdhouses for cavity-nesting species in residential neighborhoods. Duties include contacting volunteers for property access, checking nest boxes, banding adults and nestlings, collecting and processing blood and fecal samples, collecting habitat data, entering data, and communicating progress with other field teams.

This is a 13-week position that is expected to run from mid-May to mid-August 2027 (start and end dates are flexible). The field technician will work primarily with Desirée Narango (Conservation Scientist) and Michael T. Hallworth (Conservation and Data Scientist). The position also includes opportunities to supervise interns and volunteers and gain exposure to other bird and insect research projects. Training will be provided for all data collection techniques.

## Responsibilities

Data collection and maintenance (70%), data entry and field logistics (20%), outreach (10%)

## Minimum Qualifications

- Coursework in ecology, ornithology, wildlife ecology, or a related field
- A proven ability to learn quickly
- Experience with avian field work that includes mist-netting and banding
- Valid driver's license and safe driving history
- Willingness to work in a variety of conditions, including hot, sunny weather or light rain
- Ability to traverse uneven or mountainous terrain
- Must be comfortable working independently and with a team
- Must have good communication and organization skills

**Preferred Qualifications.**

- Undergraduate degree in ecology, ornithology, wildlife ecology, or a related field
- Independent banding experience, including demonstrated ability to extract and process birds without supervision
- Experience working with community scientists or volunteers

**Compensation**

$20/21 per hour depending on experience. Seasonal, nonexempt. The work schedule will require flexibility in the event of inclement weather or travel, but will be no more than 40 hours/week.

Start and end dates are flexible and negotiable for the right candidate. A personal vehicle is required, with work related mileage reimbursed at the federal rate. Travel and lodging will be provided for all remote field work. Local field work will take place primarily in Stowe, VT, and near our office in White River Junction, VT. Candidates should plan to live in an area that is convenient to one or more of these locations and be willing to commute when required. The technician will be expected to work in the office and lab space when not in the field.

**To Apply.**

Please send your cover letter, resume, and two references as a **single PDF document** named "Last Name First Name Avian Ecology Technician" to dnarango@vtecostudies.org. Please include in your cover letter how you meet the qualifications, why you're interested in the position and where you found this posting. **Please also include specific numbers for your bird handling experience (# banded, # bled, # tagged), why your previous experience makes you well suited for this position.** Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and the position will be filled when a suitable applicant is found. The deadline to apply is December 15th, 2026.