



LPBO Volunteer Opportunities

Long-term Volunteer Field Biologists (one month minimum):

Migration Monitoring

Long Point Bird Observatory offers long-term support to up to 12 people each field season, primarily engaged in the migration monitoring program. Many volunteers remain for a full season, or longer, but a month is the minimum. Volunteers tend to be keen birders and/or banders who can perhaps even look after a field station on their own after a brief training period. However, a few positions are always reserved for, and filled by, inexperienced (but very keen) people. Volunteers are required to work long hours, seven days a week, implementing various aspects of the Observatory's migration monitoring program, including bird (and butterfly) censusing, banding, data entry, facility upkeep and maintenance, training other volunteers, and participating in LPBO's educational and social events. They report directly to the Bander-In-Charge, or LPBO Program Coordinator, who provide logistical support, advice, management, and in-depth training. Volunteers are provided with free accommodation and basic food. The migration field seasons generally run from late March to early June (Spring) and from early August to mid-November (Fall), but one or two assistants may be needed year-round. "Summer" positions deal only with the Breeding Bird Census and the Tree Swallow Research Project (see below).

Breeding Bird Census Assistants

Two or three assistants are required to work on the Breeding Bird Census project (25 May to 5 July) annually. As long-term volunteers, they receive free accommodation and food, as well as intensive training from on-site staff. BBC assistants usually have some experience in bird identification, but this is a great project for those who want to improve their abilities to identify birds by song. LPBO has established 15 10-hectare plots in various vegetative communities across the savannahs, dunes, and marshes of Long Point, and each year, four or more are sampled. Assistants rise very early, and commute by foot, ATV, or boat to arrive at their study sites at dawn. Then, over the next few hours, they map the locations of all singing birds, look for nests, and try to determine the number of bird territories on the plot. Ten or more visits are made to each study site, enabling assistants to refine their estimates of the numbers of birds breeding there.

Tree Swallow Assistants

Two to four assistants are usually required to work on the Tree Swallow Project each year (1 May to 10 July). As long-term volunteers, they stay for a month or more and receive the same benefits: food, accommodation, and training. They usually don't require the same birding experience that

volunteers in the migration program may have. Often, they are primarily interested in obtaining field experience, particularly as it relates to their future education. Work involves checking nestboxes, weighing eggs and young, banding adults and young, sampling food resources, facility maintenance, and record-keeping under the supervision of a scientific authority. During May, most Tree Swallow Assistants also have an opportunity to take part in the migration monitoring program.

Short-term Volunteers (less than one month):

The expectations for short-term volunteers are the same as long-term volunteers, except the length of stay is shorter than one month. Generally, short-term volunteers do not stay at one of the remote stations unless they plan to visit for at least a week. Assistance is by no means restricted to matters ornithological. Help with facility maintenance, clerical work, art work, etc. is most welcome. You may not be specifically interested in birds, but merely want to experience Long Point, or to concentrate on plants, reptiles, amphibians, or photography. If space is available, you are welcome, but all volunteers are expected to help out with daily activities. Short-term volunteers are required to pay a modest fee (\$35/night) for food, accommodation, and training. Additional fees may apply for boat trips, or accommodation at remote research stations.