About Birmingham Audubon

Founded in 1946 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 1976, Birmingham Audubon is Alabama’s leading nonprofit promoting conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world. As the primary Audubon chapter for most of Alabama, we provide a variety of services to our state’s birds and bird lovers, including field trips, adult courses, support for researchers and educators, staff-led avian research, habitat restoration, and coastal bird stewardship and monitoring. As of 2019, our staff includes seven full-time and two seasonal positions divided between our Birmingham and Mobile offices.

About the Alabama Coastal Bird Stewardship Program

The Alabama Coastal Bird Stewardship Program (ALCBSP) is a comprehensive conservation and research program protecting shorebirds and their habitats along the Alabama Gulf Coast. Funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund with additional support from Alabama State Lands Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and implemented by Birmingham Audubon’s Coastal Programs staff, ALCBSP utilizes volunteer-driven community science, staff-led research and outreach, and strategic partnerships to monitor and provide protection for eleven of Alabama’s most sensitive beach-nesting birds species.

About the position:

Birmingham Audubon COASTAL BIOLOGISTS carry out the coastal scientific protocols and priorities established by the Science & Conservation Director, ensuring that scientific and stewardship tasks are performed with care and competence. They also assist in volunteer coordination and training, as well as in public outreach activities in both Mobile and Baldwin counties.

This is an exempt, salaried position funded in part by a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation with additional support from the Alabama State Lands Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Continuation of this position past August 2020 is contingent on new funding.
Core responsibilities:

Coastal Biologists are responsible for:

- reporting directly to the Coastal Programs Coordinator on all ALCBSP activities;
- working under the guidance of the Science & Conservation Director to carry out Audubon Coastal Bird Surveys (ACBS) in Mobile and Baldwin counties, which may include entering data generated by ACBS pulses to streamline field coordination, scheduling, and task prioritization, as well as reviewing and approving data generated by volunteers, ALCBSP Seasonal Stewards, and interns.
- working under the guidance of the Science & Conservation Director to conduct solitary- and colonial-nesting bird surveys, monitor nest sites, install symbolic fencing, and educate the public about threats facing coastal bird species;
- working with the Science & Conservation Director to ensure precise and accurate data collection, as well as the accurate reporting of those data via eBird and internal databases;
- contributing to interim and final summaries and reports;
- coordinating with other coastal staff to engage the public through outreach and educational events;
- providing technical assistance to volunteers, ALCBSP Seasonal Stewards, and interns;
- providing support for volunteer events;
- tracking, inventorying, maintaining, and caring for all project equipment and vehicles;
- performing other coastal scientific and conservation tasks as appropriate, and as assigned by the Coastal Programs Coordinator.

Relationships

Coastal biologists will:

- report directly to the Coastal Programs Coordinator;
- work with the Executive Director, Science & Conservation Director, and coastal staff members on aligned duties.

Basic qualifications

Coastal biologists must possess:

- at least a bachelor’s degree (master’s degree preferred) in biology, ornithology, ecology, or a related discipline;
- a working knowledge of North American coastal-bird biology, phenology, and diversity, as well as the ability to readily identify both common and rare Gulf Coast water birds;
- at least three years of applied field experience with demonstrated success in bird monitoring;
- experience with and a working knowledge of eBird;
- demonstrated success in managing volunteers;
- excellent oral and written communication skills;
- a strong team ethic;
- a willingness to work long hours outside, in harsh field conditions, sometimes alone;
∙ a willingness to work early mornings, evenings, and weekends, as the job demands, and to travel overnight, as necessary.
∙ experience with basic office equipment (e.g., printers, scanners, telephones) and advanced birding equipment;
∙ a willingness to submit to a background check;
∙ a valid driver’s license and independent means of transportation.

Physical requirements:

Coastal biologists must be able to:

∙ carry out a wide variety of physical tasks (e.g., lifting, reaching, bending, pushing, pulling, sitting, walking, typing, driving, standing, speaking) under a variety of conditions, both indoor and outdoor;
∙ tolerate a variety of challenging field conditions, including difficult weather (e.g., hot, cold, wet, inclement), remote and inaccessible locations, and inhospitable vegetation and insect life.

It is the policy of BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON that all persons are entitled to equality of opportunity in all areas of employment regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, national origin, religion, veteran status, genetic information, or other legally protected status.

As a contractor with the State of Alabama, BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON is required to participate in the federal government’s e-Verify program. We can confirm with e-Verify the employment authorization of all newly hired employees and most existing employees through an electronic database maintained by the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security. The e-Verify process is completed in conjunction with a new hire’s completion of the Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, upon commencement of employment. E-Verify is not used as a tool to pre-screen candidates. Visit www.uscis.gov for more information.

How to apply:

Please submit a cover letter and resume as a single PDF document to nicolelove@birminghamaudubon.org, subject: “Coastal Biologist.”