



Get Involved in Migratory Shorebird Monitoring and Conservation!



The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's *Delaware Shorebird Project* is seeking experienced and dedicated volunteers for the 2017 field season. The Project monitors migratory shorebirds including red knot, ruddy turnstone and sanderling that stopover in Delaware Bay each spring to feed on horseshoe crab eggs. Specific volunteer opportunities include participating in banding efforts, resighting marked birds, assisting with data entry and QA/QC, and helping keep equipment and the field house clean and organized. There are opportunities for volunteers of all skill levels and abilities. The key requirements are enthusiasm for natural resource conservation, the willingness to learn, and the ability to work well in a group. Volunteers must also be at least 18 years of age and be able to withstand heat, cold, and biting insects. Almost all of our banding and resighting work requires walking distances of a mile or more on sand and being without access to a restroom for extended periods of time. For an in depth learning experience and a rewarding contribution to the project, volunteers are encouraged to contribute at least three consecutive days of service to shorebird research and monitoring activities during the field season (5 May through 5 June, with peak shorebird activity occurring 10–30 May).

The Shorebird Project rents a house at Slaughter Beach, Delaware as a base of operations during the field season. Limited floor space and tent camping space in the backyard is available for volunteers who would like to stay overnight. Meals will be provided for volunteers staying at field house. If you opt to stay at the field house, you will be expected to help out with grocery shopping, cooking, and keeping the house clean.

If you are new to the project, or would like to participate in a refresher on shorebird identification and resighting, we ask that you schedule your arrival before 9am on one of the days when a brief training and orientation will be provided. If you cannot arrive for a scheduled training, please let the volunteer coordinator know, and they will be able to tell you if an alternative date works.

We have made online training modules available on our website for you to brush up on your shorebird ID skills and familiarize yourself with our resighting and cannon netting protocols. Please review them if you plan to volunteer.

For more information, please go to <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Shorebirds> or contact the Shorebird Project volunteer coordinator, Victoria Hawk, at deshorebirds@gmail.com. If you are on Facebook, do a search for Delaware Shorebird Project and “like” us! We will be posting updates there as well.

To apply to volunteer with us this spring, please fill out the Volunteer Information Form and send it to deshorebirds@gmail.com.



Delaware Shorebird Project 2017 Field Season



Volunteer Information Form

Considerations

Age Physical Health Mobility Dietary (if you will be staying at the Field House)

Other Please explain: _____

We have limited space for people to stay.

Do you plan to commute each day or do you need to stay overnight? _____

Would you be willing to bring a tent and sleeping bag and camp in the back yard if we do not have room in the house? _____

Could you stay in a hotel if there was not room in the house? _____

Most field sites require driving. Vehicles are limited as is parking.

Will you be planning to drive and have a vehicle at the house? _____

Would you be willing to use it to transport yourself and other members of the team to site locations?

Commitment

We ask that you commit to spending at least 3 full consecutive days with the project to offset training, and to gain exposure to all aspects of the work we do. We will conduct volunteer training, orientation on the dates below. If you are new to the project, we ask that you schedule your arrival before 9am on one the dates below so that you can participate in training. If you cannot arrive for a scheduled training, please let the volunteer coordinator know, and she will be able to tell you if an alternative date works.

Training dates: Friday 12 May, Tuesday 16 May, Friday 19 May, Tuesday 23 May, and Friday 26 May

I would like to arrive on: Mon |Day at 00:00 I plan to depart on: Mon |Day at 00:00

If you have worked with us before, could you let us know what jobs you feel comfortable with, understanding that we will re-orient you this season?

Estimating bird numbers on the beach

Resighting flagged birds

Data entry

Weighing birds

Scanning ratios

Data QA/QC

Measuring bill and head

Return Completed Form to:
deshorebirds@gmail.com