



# The INSTITUTE for BIRD POPULATIONS



David Cook, flickr

## **Bird-banding Technicians on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) seeks two experienced bird banders to help operate a cluster of Tropical Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (TMAPS) bird banding stations on the island of Rota, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**PROJECT DATES:** March 1 through May 30, 2025.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Working in a team of two, banding technicians will operate six mist-netting stations on the island of Rota. Work involves mist-net operation, bird banding, handling of endangered species, and remote living on a tropical Pacific island.

**REQUIREMENTS:** We are looking for candidates with strong previous experience with bird banding, especially the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) protocol. Applicants must have advanced skills in mist-netting, bird banding, and ageing and sexing of birds in the hand. Experience in handling endangered bird species and prior blood and feather sampling experience is a major plus. Applicants are strongly recommended to state the number and types of birds handled in their cover letter or resume.

Technicians will be expected to understand how to identify plumages and molts of landbirds. Other required skills include attention to detail, good physical condition, a tolerance of long days that begin before dawn, and the ability to endure sometimes difficult field conditions, including rugged terrain, biting insects, and tropical heat and humidity. Applicants will be provided with flights, free housing with wi-fi, and a work vehicle while on the island.

**SCHEDULE:** After a few weeks of orientation and station set up, duties will generally be 3 days on followed by 1 day off, with bird banding conducted from before sunrise to early afternoon.

**EQUIPMENT:** Technicians are expected to provide their own binoculars and field clothing. Good hiking boots are a necessity.

**COMPENSATION:** For this position, the technician will be considered an INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and will receive payment of \$3,300 per full month contracted, prorated based on the number of days on Rota. Contractor will **NOT** receive health insurance, worker's compensation, or any other fringe benefits. It is strongly recommended that all candidates have their own health insurance.

**TO APPLY:** Please email a resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of up to three references to Lauren Helton, Biologist (lhelton AT birdpop DOT org). Both character and professional references are acceptable. Often, references can be slow to reply; we will contact all submitted references and encourage submitting as many references as possible so that your application can be quickly processed.

**Application deadline:** Open until filled. Application review will begin as applications are received.

Please put **Rota TMAPS technician** in the subject line.

*IBP values diversity and encourages people from all backgrounds to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.*