



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 one experienced bird bander 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, 2026.

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, depending on weather.

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 fill out [IBP's job application form](#). Please select IBP job code **Banding-Rota-Field tech** when ranking this position. Your submission should include ranked position preferences, resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of up to three references. Professional references are preferred, but one reference may be a character reference. References are often slow to reply, so we encourage submitting more references to ensure your application can be quickly processed.

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

IBP is an equal opportunity employer.

All applicants are considered for all positions without regard to race, religion, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, national origin, ancestry, physical/mental disability, medical condition, military/veteran status, genetic information, marital status, ethnicity, citizenship or immigration status, or any other protected classification, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. Equal access to programs, services, and employment is available to all qualified persons. Those applicants requiring an accommodation to complete the application and/or interview process should call 707-789-3224 or email IBPhumanresources@proton.me for assistance.