

Zoology Summer Intern

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR-DNH) is seeking one or two summer interns to assist its zoological staff in performing a variety of office, laboratory, and field duties. The mission of DCR-DNH is to conserve the Commonwealth's biodiversity through inventory, protection, and stewardship.

www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/

Tasks and opportunities for Zoology Summer Intern

Assist the zoological staff of DCR-DNH by performing the following tasks:

1. Process zoological specimens, primarily as follows:

A. Data entry of identified insect specimens (mostly moths). Both Access and Excel databases are used, depending on the taxonomic group.

B. Separate moths from other types of insects captured in ultraviolet light traps.

C. Pin representative moth specimens and prepare high quality collection labels.

D. Label (and possibly identify) dragonfly, damselfly, and butterfly specimens.

2. Assist zoological staff with field work throughout Virginia involving a variety of animal taxa, such as conducting surveys for rare butterflies, moths, dragonflies, damselflies, mussels, and bats.

May involve occasional overnight travel (expenses are reimbursed).

3. Catalog and abstract scientific papers, reports, and books. File literature in the reprint or zoology library. Organize and label reprint files.

General requirements:

1. Some basic zoological knowledge or general interest in natural history is preferred.
2. Good organizational skills
3. Ability to follow instructions carefully and work independently
4. Close attention to detail (e.g., insect pinning technique, preparation of specimen labels; accuracy of data entry)
5. Ability to handle fragile zoological specimens and to pin moths and other insects as assigned (training will be provided).
6. Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access (basic training can be provided).
7. Ability to work in variable weather (hot, cold, wet, dry) and field (uplands, wetlands, etc.) conditions that may involve some level of physical discomfort.

Contact:

Chris Ludwig, Chief Biologist
Virginia Natural Heritage Program
600 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 786-7951
chris.ludwig@dcr.virginia.gov