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Dear Dr. Karp and Ms. Lauck,

My name is Wentao Yang and I am a third-year Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity major at UC Davis. I am writing to express my great interest in the internship Putah Creek Nestbox Highway program with my utmost eagerness. I am a volunteer at the California Raptor Center, and I met Violet Wu there who is also an applicant and shared this program with me. With my enthusiasm for birds and my determination of working with bird conservation in the future, I believe my skills and qualifications make me a good candidate for this intern position.

I have been observing and recording birds with my camera for more than 10 years. Having been to many countries, I walked through various types of habitats with great diversity of birds around the world. My experience in the rainforest in Costa Rica where I watched hummingbirds flying around with trust and got amazed by their sparkling feathers drives my determination to pursue a career in the field working with birds and conserving their habitat. My love for birds helps me become the founder of birdwatching clubs from elementary school to here at UC Davis. I have been trying to raise others' awareness to protect birds and habitats inside and outside of school. As the co-founder of Birdwatching Club at UC Davis, I organized and led several field trips in Yolo County and introduced the species we saw to less-experienced club members. More than 30 people joined me on each trip, and I received many positive feedbacks.

Volunteering once a week at California Raptor Center prepares me with well-developed skills for handling birds. More than a year of working there help me learn banding, holding, and releasing birds to the wild. I am also responsible for doing regular physical examinations on birds. My supervisor there noted my enthusiasm and my capacity when working with birds and wrote me a recommendation letter recently. I also developed effective communication and teamwork skills with other volunteers and supervisors there. I am now leading a newly adopted volunteer and getting her trained for working with raptors.

I am also an intern working with Eric Tymstra in Professor Gail Patricelli's Lab. I help Eric with his videotape data by collecting the Greater Sage Grouse strut rate and mating success. Learning from Eric, Ryane Logsdon, and Professor Patricelli, I have developed a few remote working experiences with birds such as proficiency in using BORIS, a program developed for data collection and sorting.

I am confident that my enthusiasm towards birds, my experience, and my skills have prepared me to be a strong intern for your Putah Creek Nestbox Highway program. I have free schedule during spring and summer time. I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Wentao Yang