

Dear Dr. Karp and Ms. Lauck,

I am Meirun Zhang, a second-year Environmental Science and Management major on the Geospatial Information Science track. I am applying for the position of Nestbox Intern. I believe I am a strong candidate for this position as I have the qualifications you are seeking.

In my previous experience as a research assistant and a bird banding volunteer in Chongming Dongtan Birds National Natural Reserve, I have honed my skills in handling details and gained experience in setting up and collecting footage from trap cameras. For every fieldwork, I cooperated with my teammate and recorded the conditions of around 50 bird nests, each containing 3 to 6 eggs, within two hours. I was also responsible for handling data of all groups including eggs and nest conditions, and information about all banded birds for the whole season. I was able to collect and record data accurately, even in a rather stressful environment. I also took care of a Whimbrel during my volunteering, so I have some experience in rehabilitating and working with wild animals as well. When I worked as a research assistant at Alladale Wilderness Reserve, I observed wild deer behaviors directly through binoculars and recorded my observations in audio.

I am particularly interested in this position as I have certain experience with biomonitoring and wish to develop my relevant skills professionally. For example, I was asked to take blood samples from tern nestlings as a research assistant, but I was very nervous at that time. I believe more exposure to these tasks is very useful for me as a future researcher in conservation. The purpose of the research that wants to see how climate change affects nestlings is also very interesting to me. Especially in this warm and dry winter when I just saw an adult butterfly crawling out of its chrysalis, I couldn't help wondering what will happen to birds.

Meanwhile, all my ornithology research experiences are with shorebirds, and thus this internship would be a great opportunity for me to learn more about songbirds. As an international student and a member of the birdwatching club, this position would also help me get familiar with local songbirds and build my bird ID skills.

I am confident that I would become a great Nestbox Intern. I am a detail-oriented person with some biomonitoring experience and a strong work ethic, and I find great satisfaction in conservation. I would appreciate it if I could be part of your team.

Sincerely,
Meirun Zhang