

WildResearch seeking experienced bird banders for the 2025 Spring and Fall Migration Monitoring Program

WildResearch is seeking qualified Banders-in-Charge (BICs) assist with the 2025 Spring (April 15 – May 31) and Fall (Aug 24 - Oct 4) Migration Monitoring Program at Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO), in Richmond, BC, near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. To learn more about WildResearch and its mission: www.wildresearch.ca.

Iona Island Bird Observatory is an exciting and dynamic bird banding station located at Iona Beach Regional Park, just outside Richmond, BC and within the Metro Vancouver area. The station was established by WildResearch in 2010 and is one of few banding stations in Western Canada that operates both spring and fall migration monitoring programs. It also experiences some of the highest bird volumes in Western Canada with 100 bird-days being the norm.

Responsibilities: The site has 14 nets that open a half hour before sunrise for 6 hours each day. Under the direction of the IIBO Program Managers, the Bander will be responsible for:

- Leading and overseeing migration monitoring operations, including banding, census and collecting additional data indicated in the WildResearch Banding Protocol, and supervising other staff and volunteers
- Data entry and QAQC
- Training of volunteers in bird banding/extraction and safe bird handling
- Maintaining and making available WildResearch banding supplies for their use at the banding station each day (bird bag cleaning, ensuring adequate band inventory, net organization, charging batteries on gear)
- Interacting positively with the public and providing outreach and demonstrations on site for visiting members of the public including school groups on site
- Completing and proofing banding and daily estimated totals (DETs), entered digitally onto a laptop
- assisting with preparing weekly IIBO summary reports for inclusion in WildResearch media and newsletters
- fostering a positive and welcoming learning environment for all

Daily operations will involve working with volunteers of varying levels of experience, so the Bander must be comfortable providing training to groups of volunteers. The Bander will also be responsible for managing the station on a day to day basis, providing public banding demonstrations to school groups and other visiting guests, interacting with the public, and for complete and accurate data collection.

Qualifications: Candidates will hold or be qualified for a Canadian Bird Banding Permit, with a history of safely banding and extracting 2500+ songbirds, must demonstrate familiarity with identifying western North American songbird species by sight and sound, and have experience banding high volumes of passerines, training volunteers, experience providing public banding demonstrations and explaining biology concepts to non-biologists, and overseeing a migration monitoring station. The Bander must be experienced with large volumes of birds, as days exceeding 100 captures are common at IIBO. Familiarity with IIBO and WildResearch's mission is an asset.

Terms: This is a position within a team of other banders, and schedule will depend on candidate's availability, and the availability of other team members. The station is open every morning, seven days a week for six weeks in the spring, and six weeks in the fall. Average length of day is 7.5 hours in the field; however, this may vary with weather and bird capture rates. Pay rate is \$225.00 per day for the Bander. Successful candidates must have their own vehicle and housing.

How to Apply: Please send a brief cover letter, CV including details on number of birds banded, and experience with western North American songbirds, to iibo@wildresearch.ca and info@wildresearch.ca. Subject line "IIBO Bander Position" by March 15th, 2025 for spring, and July 31, 2025 for fall. Please specify your availability for one or both seasons in your cover letter.