

# WildResearch seeks Bird Banding Intern for Spring Migration Monitoring

WildResearch is seeking to fill an internship position to assist with the 2026 Spring (April 15 – May 31) Migration Monitoring Program at Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO), stationed near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. To learn more about WildResearch and its mission: [www.wildresearch.ca](http://www.wildresearch.ca).

The site has 14 nets that open a half hour before sunrise for 6 hours each day. Daily observations and a daily census are also conducted. Under the direction of the Bander-in-Charge, the Intern will be responsible for assisting with:

- Daily station setup and closure, and maintenance
- Training in the skills used in bird banding/mist-netting (level of involvement will differ based on prior experience)
- Scribing (recording data – in Excel), when needed
- Participating in/training in how to conduct census
- Making observations of birds throughout the day for the daily estimated totals
- Laundering bird bags, as needed (no laundry facilities on site)
- Leading groups around site during public banding demonstrations for school groups and other visiting guests
- Interacting and representing WildResearch with the general public at IIBO
- Fostering a positive and welcoming learning environment for all
- Contributing to weekly IIBO summary reports for inclusion in WildResearch media and newsletters

Qualifications:

- Applicant should be between 18-30 years old (Extraordinary Applicants aged 16 or 17 will be considered)
- Applicant must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or have refugee protection status; **And** must be legally entitled to work in Canada
- Wildlife handling experience (bird handling preferred)
- Quick and accurate typing skills
- Familiarity with Excel
- Good attention to detail
- Ability to remember and follow instructions precisely
- Quick learner
- Adaptability to a changeable work environment
- Reliability and Punctuality, even with very early start times
- Access to a washing machine and dryer for laundering bird bags
- Own transportation to/from site with very early morning starts
- Must be (or become) a member of WildResearch (for insurance purposes)

Assets:

- Some mist-net extraction and/or bird banding experience strongly preferred
- Field work experience
- Experience working in a high-stress environment
- Skill in identifying Western North American birds by sight and sound
- Familiarity with IIBO and WildResearch's mission

The IIBO program aim is to train volunteers through bird handling and hands-on training opportunities. The successful candidate must therefore work well with others and show enthusiasm and patience with volunteers and visitors.

Terms: This is a position within a team of experienced staff of a Bander-in-Charge and Banding Assistants. The station is open every morning, seven days a week for 47 days in the spring, weather dependent. The intern position is for 8 hours a day, 5 days per week during the spring season. Schedule can be decided in conjunction with the Bander-in-Charge, but weekends are likely to be part of the schedule. The pay rate is \$17.85 per hour (conditional upon Canada Summer Jobs grant approval), and does not include transportation or housing. Average length of day is 8 hours in the field; however, this may vary with weather and bird capture rates. Some work may be required off-site (laundry). This position is ideal for anyone interested in increasing their bird handling experience.

How to apply: Please send a brief cover letter, CV, and two references (banding related references are encouraged, if possible) in one file, to [iibo@wildresearch.ca](mailto:iibo@wildresearch.ca), subject line "IIBO Internship" by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Position is open until filled, so early applications are encouraged. Please specify your previous banding experience in your cover letter.