



6011 W. St. Joseph Hwy., Suite 403, Lansing, MI 48917
Phone: 517-886-9144 Fax: 517- 886-9466

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JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Kirtland's Warbler Tour Guide and Cowbird Trapper

SUPERVISORS: Dan Elbert (USFWS), & Wendy Tatar (MAS)

LOCATION /DATES: Training at East Tawas, Michigan May 13 & 14, 2011
Work located at Grayling, Michigan, May 15 - July 4, 2011

EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Temporary/Seasonal

COMPENSATION: A rate of \$1200/mo. for the 53 day period, or \$2013 total.
Lodging at Camp Wa-Wa-Sum during period of employment.

PREPARER: Chris Mensing (USFWS) & Wendy Tatar (Michigan Audubon)

DATE PREPARED: February 10, 2011

SUMMARY OF POSITION:

The Kirtland's Warbler Tour Guide and Cowbird Trapper (hereafter "guide") will assist the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1) leading the public Kirtland's Warbler tours from the Grayling Ramada Inn, and 2) assisting with monitoring of brown-headed cowbird traps, as directed by Dan Elbert of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The guide will be responsible for developing a high level of knowledge of all aspects of Kirtland's Warbler identification, biology, history and management, in preparation for leading the public tour. The guide is also responsible for leading the tour in all types of conditions, including biting insects and cold, windy weather. At times it may be necessary to wait up to 2-3 hours with participants to see a Kirtland's Warbler. Typically, about 98-99% of participants get a view of a Kirtland's Warbler, and the guide will be responsible for maintaining this level of excellence.

The guide will be expected to represent both the Michigan Audubon Society and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in a courteous, professional manner, and to answer questions regarding both organizations to the extent possible.

Cowbird trapping requires specific on-the-job training in data collection and methodology, which will be given by Dan Elbert upon employment.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

The guide will be responsible for acquiring CPR/first aid certification (if he/she doesn't already have it). The guide will work 5 days a week, not necessarily only on weekdays, and will have two days off per week, which may or may not be a weekend or consecutive days. The guide will be expected to work 40 hour weeks, with a potential need for additional hours or work days if the situation presents itself. No mileage or food stipend will be provided. Arrangements for housing will be made with Michigan State University, which operates Camp Wa-Wa-Sum, east of Grayling. Space at Wa-Wa-Sum may be limited and priority may be given to other groups, at that time alternate arrangements will be made. The guide will not be responsible for lodging costs. There will likely be other groups and researchers staying at Wa-Wa-Sum, including USFWS employees also working on the brown-headed cowbird control project, so the guide must be willing to live in close quarters with other people. Please note that the camp is located in a remote area approximately 15 miles from Grayling, a town of < 1,800.

The guide is required to possess a valid state driver's license as he/she will be using a USFWS-owned vehicle for any work related duties. These vehicles are not parked at Wa-Wa-Sum so the guide will need to provide their own transportation to and from work each day.

DUTIES & REQUIREMENTS:

1. Demonstrated expertise of Kirtland's Warbler management, biology, identification, and history, or willingness to obtain it.
2. Ability and willingness to represent both MAS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a professional, knowledgeable, and friendly manner.
3. Ability to identify and train tour participants in identification of non-Kirtland's warbler species present in the jack pine community (e.g. hermit thrush, Lincoln's sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler, etc.)
4. Willingness to euthanize cowbirds by cervical dislocation or thoracic compression when necessary.
5. Ability to work as part of a team and accept guidance from a supervisor.
6. Willingness to provide own transportation 1) to and from Tawas and Grayling, and 2) from Camp Wa-Wa-Sum to the location where the Fish and Wildlife Service vehicle is parked, throughout the work period.
7. Ability to drive a four wheel drive, manual transmission truck in sandy conditions.
8. Possession of current CPR/First Aid certification, or willingness to obtain it.
9. Ability to tolerate adverse weather (rain, snow, fog, cold) and adverse wildlife (mosquitoes, black flies).
10. Ability to lead groups of people over rough terrain under harsh conditions and to lift up to fifty pounds.

11. Willingness to perform other related duties in support of the entire Kirtland's Warbler project as assigned.

12. Ability to live in a remote area a great distance from a major metropolitan area.

TO APPLY:

An e-mail containing a letter of interest and resume can be sent to:

wendy@michiganaudubon.org

Or send a letter of interest and resume to:

Wendy Tatar, Program Coordinator

Michigan Audubon

6011 W. St. Joseph Hwy.

Suite 403

Lansing, MI 48917

Resumes will be reviewed when received. Position is open until filled.