

## **WHITE LAKE WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA DOVE BANDING - INTERNSHIP**

**Location:** White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area, Gueydan, Louisiana

**Background:** White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WLWCA) is an approximate 72,000-acre wetlands conservation area managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and consists of 75% freshwater marsh and 25% agriculture land. The property was owned and managed by various oil companies until BP donated it to the state of Louisiana in 2002. LDWF manages the property to produce high quality habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, alligators, and numerous other species; additionally the agriculture property is managed to maintain rice production and ensure the land stays in farmable condition. Since 2015, WLWCA has participated in the national mourning dove banding program. Mourning dove banding is part of a larger national effort coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the data produced from this project are an important component to estimating vital rates necessary for managing mourning dove populations.

**Project Scope:** The mourning dove banding intern will be responsible for capturing and banding mourning doves at WLWCA and the surrounding area. The intern will be responsible for various activities such as: determining potential mourning dove banding sites, securing permission to band doves on private property, maintenance of equipment, running trap sites morning and evening, ageing/sexing doves, banding doves, entering dove banding data, and maintaining detailed banding records. The intern must be able to work long and irregular hour's (pre-dawn and post-dusk daily). The intern must be willing to work in extreme heat and humidity and be able to tolerate mosquitoes and other biting insects while working in the field. The intern must be able to take detailed notes for data collection and be proficient with Microsoft Office Excel program. At the end of the summer, the student intern will compose a research paper outlining mourning dove banding efforts, bait preference, and the amount of by-catch in proportion to overall captures on WLWCA.

**Timing:** 13 May–09 August 2024 (Flexible beginning and end dates)

**Housing:** White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area will provide housing

**Compensation:** College credit is contingent upon university approval. Interns may receive \$12 per hour

**Application deadline:** March 20, 2024