

Research Assistant Opportunity in Alaska

VOLUNTEER RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP (2) Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge is looking for 2 volunteers to assist with a breeding population study of the **Bristle-thighed Curlews** from **1 May to 16 July 2011**. This is a great opportunity to work on a rare and unique species and gain experience working at a remote field location. Field work will include surveying curlews and other birds at point counts, delineating breeding territories, conducting behavioral observations, searching for and monitoring nests and broods, capturing and color banding adults, resighting marked individuals, documenting predators, and gathering information about prey items, habitat use and berry production.

The field site is at a remote wilderness location in the southern Nulato Hills in western Alaska and is accessible by helicopter only. A crew of four will stay at this isolated site for 9-10 weeks. Camp life is communal, with a common cook tent, individual sleeping tents, and few amenities. Field personnel will be required to hike 6-12 miles per day over rugged tundra-covered hills and through shrub-filled drainages under a variety of weather conditions. Temperatures can range from 20-80s, fog is likely, snow is possible, and winds can exceed 50 mph during a storm. Working conditions may also include dense clouds of mosquitoes and other biting insects and possible close encounters with moose or bear. When not in the field, assistants will help with field logistics, gear maintenance, and data entry.

To qualify, you must be available no later than 3 May and be in excellent physical condition. We are seeking applicants that are self-motivated, enthusiastic, and can work effectively as part of a team. Prior experience identifying birds and camping in a remote setting is desired. Initial training (bear safety; firearms safety; aircraft safety) is mandatory. The Refuge will provide most field equipment, airfare from a US city, lodging in Bethel (bunkhouse) and the field (tent), and food while in the field. Interested applicants should send a cover letter summarizing relevant experience, names/contact information for 3 references, and an updated resume to Kristine Sowl at kristine_sowl@fws.gov OR Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Box 346, Bethel, AK 99559. **Application deadline is 31 December 2010.**