

# Raptor Research Internship at Teton Raptor Center - December start

Dates: December 1 - November 15

Hours/per week: 40

Jackson Hole, Wyoming



## POSITION DESCRIPTION:

This one-year Raptor Research Internship is an opportunity to become immersed in the work of a vibrant and growing conservation organization. This experience includes being closely involved with a variety of unique field research projects at Teton Raptor Center (TRC), with additional opportunities to explore the rehabilitation, education, operations, and communications aspects of a nonprofit. TRC actively conducts 8-12 field research projects across Wyoming and Montana and this position will be involved in most ongoing projects (see website for project details). We are looking for someone who is looking to create a career in wildlife science, is dedicated, curious, enthusiastic, and ready to roll-up their sleeves to work hard, deepen the work of raptor conservation, and be part of a passionate team.

The programmatic focus of this position is to support all aspects of the Research program at TRC with seasonal shifts of responsibilities and projects. Time spent supporting and bolstering TRC's communications about our research projects will be incorporated into the schedule throughout the full year. Research Interns will have the opportunity to use existing (or new) data to create an independent research project that can culminate in a published paper or presentation at a professional conference.

- **December - February:** Gain familiarity with ongoing projects/protocols/equipment, develop an independent capstone research project, data/photo collation and archiving.
- **March - July:** Fieldwork and data analysis related to all TRC research projects; including deploying audio recorders, bioacoustic analysis, nest searching/monitoring, aerial surveys, data entry, capture/tagging, and prey surveys.
- **August - September:** Office work related to research projects, bioacoustic analysis, capstone project work, and prep for fall migration project
- **October:** Fall migration season in Montana, including site set-up, counting, captures, tagging, and sampling.
- **November:** Capstone project completion and final presentation

## AREAS of EMPHASIS :

- Support TRC's on-going research projects including but not limited to:
  - Skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking to remote locations in the backcountry to set up automated recording devices, nest searching, nest monitoring, prey surveys, and banding
  - Analyzing TRC's sound recording data (Northern Goshawk, Boreal, Flammulated, and Great Gray Owl)

- Remote fieldwork to support data collection, including camping for several consecutive nights and early-morning fieldwork
- Photo/video cataloging
- Spending up to several weeks at a time in remote field sites across Wyoming and Montana
- Equipment and vehicle maintenance and organization
- Contribute to TRC's social media platforms and communications channels
  - Take photos and videos and help create content to tell the stories of TRC's work.
- Support administrative activities, such as mailings, filing, and data organization
- Participate in campus stewardship, such as cleaning, general maintenance and landscaping activities.

### **EXPERIENCES & SKILLS YOU'LL LEARN:**

- Raptor ID (by sight and sound, including raptors in-flight)
- Raptor research techniques, including:
  - Nest-searching
  - Capture (hand, dho-gaza, bal-chatri, bownets)
  - Raptor handling, banding, and sampling
  - Tree climbing, rappelling
  - Auxiliary marking
- GPS navigation & orienteering in various habitat types (mountain, sagebrush, rangeland, riparian habitats)
- Introduction to project design
- Data collection and entry
- Introduction to mapping software and techniques
- Experiences nest searching from small aircraft, if desired
- Over-snow travel
- Vehicle safety in the backcountry, driving stick-shift, towing, etc
- Bioacoustic analysis
- Prey surveys (nighttime lagomorph driving surveys, daytime pocket gopher surveys)
- Conference attendance

### **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS:**

TRC is seeking applicants with the following qualifications and skills:

- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Superb observational skills and strong desire to learn
- Comfort with solo hiking for extended periods (daily), and for several miles over off-trail and rugged terrain
- Knowledge of science, natural history, and birds of prey (a strong interest in wildlife, enthusiasm, strong work ethic, maturity, and willingness to learn are more important than academic qualifications)
- Desire to make field research a part of future career aspirations

- Familiarity with or ability to quickly learn snowshoeing and/or cross-country skiing
- Comfort with multi-day travel and camping at remote field sites
- Familiarity with digital media platforms
- A love of nature and desire to share that passion with others
- Willingness to take initiative, roll-up your sleeves, problem solve, and multi-task effectively and with humor while working with a small group of very committed people
- Ability to perform physical tasks such as carrying a heavy backpack over several miles and lifting (up to 40 lbs.)
- Current CPR & AED and First Aid Certification required.
- Clean driving record and ability to navigate 4wd vehicles in rough terrain (ability to drive a stick-shift preferred but not required)
- At least 21 years old
- Commitment to entire internship timeframe and ability and flexibility to experience many aspects of Teton Raptor Center's programs

#### **COMPENSATION/BENEFITS:**

- Internships may be used for academic or vocational purposes. Interns are responsible for making the arrangements necessary to receive relevant credit as a result of completing the internship.
- Monthly stipend: \$1,400
- On-site housing: As a condition of this opportunity, the individual must reside in TRC's workforce housing units. Provided housing is shared with one TRC intern but has a private bedroom/bathroom.
- Use of TRC vehicles for TRC operations and programs.
- PTO

#### **ABOUT TETON RAPTOR CENTER:**

Teton Raptor Center (TRC) is a non-profit organization advancing raptor conservation through education, research, and rehabilitation. TRC's educational programs reach tens of thousands of visitors annually. Our team of Resident Raptors includes 13 non-releasable raptors that are cared for and provided training and enrichment on a daily basis. Our research team works on dozens of research projects annually, both locally and in other parts of Wyoming and Montana. Our research projects include the largest and longest on-going study of Great Gray Owls anywhere in the world, as well as projects monitoring migration of Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks, and more. TRC rescues and rehabilitates over 150 raptors annually and recently received permits to begin rehabilitating corvids as well. These injured, ill and orphaned birds come from all over the state of Wyoming and Idaho. Finally, TRC works on several conservation projects aimed at keeping wild raptors safer in the wild. These include the Poo-Poo Project (Port-o-Potty Owl Project), an initiative to keep cavity-nesting owls and other raptors from becoming trapped in the ventilation pipes on vault toilets, and Sporting Lead-Free, an education-based initiative aimed at reducing the use of lead ammunition and tackle in the environment because of its detrimental health effects on raptors.

## **EMPLOYMENT at TETON RAPTOR CENTER:**

Teton Raptor Center is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke-free and drug-free workplace. Successful applicants will be required to pass a background check, driving check, and drug screening.

## **TO APPLY**

Please apply [here](#) to upload your resume, cover letter, and three professional references. Your resume and cover letter should be uploaded as a single PDF saved with your name, year and the internship in the file title (e.g., "LastName\_FirstName\_2024\_Research\_Internship").

**The application window for our December start internships is July 1 - August 31 of each year. Applications must be received by 5pm (Mountain Time) on August 31.**