



- College Internships - *Buzzards Bay Tern Restoration Project*

College-level interns are needed to restore rare and endangered terns to Bird, Ram, and Penikese Islands in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. These islands support nearly half the North American population of the federally endangered Roseate Tern; active management to protect the population is critical to recovery.

Interns are a critical part of our team: they will work closely with the Project Leader and Site Managers and will gain a variety of hands-on skills. Activities include censusing of Common, Roseate, and Arctic Terns; monitoring tern growth and productivity; trapping and banding; reading bands on adults through spotting scopes; monitoring productivity of American Oystercatchers; discouragement, censusing, and monitoring productivity of nesting gulls; habitat management; maintaining field notebooks; and data management.



Tern chick
banding



Roseate Tern

Terns are small, ground-nesting seabirds that are highly charismatic. The species we are working with nest in dense colonies and are very aggressive. They protect their nests and young by diving at, pecking, and defecating on intruders, including researchers. Extreme care must be exercised when working around their camouflaged eggs and chicks.

Most interns can expect to rotate among islands. When at Ram and Bird, the crew will travel to islands on a daily basis in a small boat on an irregular 5-6 day/week schedule. When at Penikese, the crew will set up and live in a field camp and work on an irregular 5-7 day/week schedule depending on weather and an irregular boat schedule. Applicants must be able to carry heavy field equipment a distance of ½ mile for camp set-up and break-down, and be comfortable living in a remote island setting with limited facilities for up to 2-3 weeks at a time.



Nest monitoring

HOUSING – A crew house on the mainland is provided when interns are not camping at Penikese.

Common Tern at Penikese camp

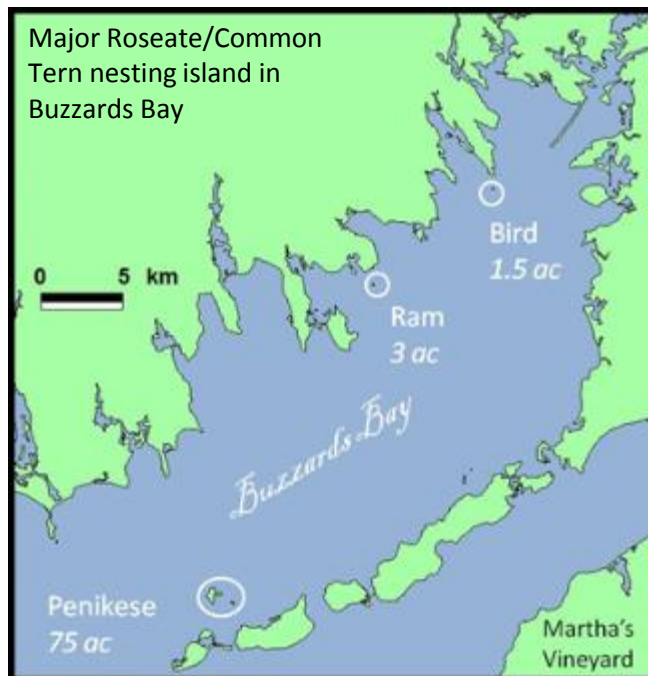


DATES – Dates are flexible to accommodate college calendars. Our greatest need is from early May through mid-July. Some work on weekends and holidays is expected. Part time or short term opportunities are possible.

Common Tern on human “perch”



Major Roseate/Common Tern nesting island in Buzzards Bay



QUALIFICATIONS – Previous field experience looked upon favorably, but enthusiasm and strong work ethic are more important; good opportunity for an undergraduate or recent graduate to gain field skills. Candidates should be self-motivated, organized, mature, have a strong work ethic, pay close attention to detail, be able to live and work cooperatively with others, be able to maintain a positive attitude under a heavy workload, and be in good physical condition. Having a vehicle to travel to field sites is helpful, but not required.

COMPENSATION – Interns may stay at our crew house for no charge. You may be eligible for credit or a monetary stipend through your college; however, MassWildlife does not provide financial compensation.

Newly hatched tern chicks



TO APPLY – Please email:

- (1) a cover letter,
- (2) a resume detailing your education, experience (paid or volunteer), and any special skills, and
- (3) names, email addresses, and phone numbers of three references

to Carolyn Mostello
(carolyn.mostello@mass.gov). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.