

TITLE: Costa Rican Bird Route Assistant

Position Location: Chilamate, Sarapiquí, Costa Rica

Dates: Approx. Feb. 1 – May. 1 (3 months)

Compensation: The Bird Route Assistant will receive a stipend of \$50/month. Housing in Costa Rica will be provided for the duration of the position. Housing consists of a small, 3 bedroom house that may or may not be shared by another person, with electricity and hot water shower, located in the small community of Chilamate, in Sarapiquí, Heredia, Costa Rica. The cost of airfare to Costa Rica will be the responsibility of the person hired.

Position Description: The Rainforest Biodiversity Group, a US-based non-profit, is looking for a highly motivated person to assist with private land conservation and bird tourism in northern Costa Rica. The main duty of the Bird Route Assistant is to visit private reserves for the purpose of planning conservation and tourism related activities with the private landowners. Other duties include conducting site evaluations, writing reports, assisting with training and educational workshops, and coordinating activities. The Bird Route Assistant will report directly to the Costa Rican Bird Route Coordinator and indirectly to the Board of Directors of the Rainforest Biodiversity Group.

The Bird Route Assistant will be responsible for renting a vehicle and driving alone on rural, unpaved roads in Costa Rica and thus must have a good driving record and be of age to rent a vehicle, which means a minimum age of 21. Qualified applicants will be able to communicate well with landowners and community members and so should be comfortable conversing and writing documents in Spanish at an advanced, if not fluent, level. This position will best suit a person with interest and experience in sustainable development, and bird or wildlife habitat conservation. Experience in marketing, eco-tourism and tour guiding is a plus; experience in education, tropical ecology and bird identification skills is also desirable.

This is a grant-funded position, and although it is not a paid position, it is a great opportunity for anyone looking to gain experience in, or looking to continue to work in conservation and sustainable development in Latin America. This position provides the opportunity to work and live in small community, to help with the implementation of an innovative bird tourism program, to be a part of the conservation community in Costa Rica, and to assist with sustainable tourism development.

To apply, please send a Letter of Interest explaining why you should be hired, a current résumé, and one letter of recommendation to Andrew Rothman at Andrew@rainforestbiodiversity.org. Please call 608-698-3448, or visit www.rainforestbiodiversity.org and www.costaricanbirdroute.com for more information on the position, organization and project.