

## Announcement

# Volunteer for the Galapagos Landbird Conservation Project

**Application deadline:** 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019

**Start date:** 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

**Time:** 4 to 6 months.

### Introduction

The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and the Directorate of the Galápagos National Park (DGNP) lead the Landbird Conservation Plan for Galapagos. The project objectives are to provide baseline information of birds' populations across Galapagos and to understand and help reverse the negative impact on land bird species while working together with other national and international scientific institutions. The project works closely with other essential projects such as the *Philornis* project, the Mangrove Finch Project and the Restoration of the Highland Zones of Galápagos. All programs are multi-institutional cooperation and provide important information for management and conservation of the ecosystems in Galápagos.

The volunteer selected will help with the research activities and will be supervised by the principal investigator of the project. Activities will include field work, lab work, entering data, in addition to working with students, local institutions, park rangers and the Galápagos community, and collaborating with scientists who have long-term studies in the Galápagos.

### Responsibilities

Assist in the projects:

- Nest monitoring of finches and Galapagos flycatcher.
  - Consistent breeding monitoring of nest boxes at CDF facilities.
  - Conduct experiments to control parasitic flies (*Philornis downsi*) and observations of fly behavior at the nest.
  - Search and monitor finch nests in the arid zone, update database daily after monitoring.
  - The study area is a hot, rocky area with thorny plants and cacti, so motivation and good physical condition is required.
- Vermilion flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*).
  - Breeding monitoring and ecology of this species in highland zone on Santa Cruz island, update database daily after monitoring.
  - Conduct experiments to reduce the impact of the parasitic flies (*Philornis downsi*) on the nests.
  - Generally, this is demanding work in isolated conditions, with long day hikes carrying equipment. A motivated person is required.

### Required profile

- Applicants with Bachelor degree in biology and current biology students will be given preference.
- Previous experience in bird ecology or conservation programs is required. Fieldwork experience

is desirable.

- Experience in mist netting, handling birds, bird songs, bird identification skills and bird banding experience are a plus.
- Ability to work in remote areas and camping in rustic sites, with lack of communication.
- Good physical condition to hike in harsh terrains, ability to carry equipment for long hikes.
- Working language in Spanish is essential to communicate with park rangers and community. English is a secondary language only used at the research facilities.
- Capacity to work irregular shifts, including evenings and/or weekends.
- Excellent social skills are appreciated, as well as a good work attitude and commitment to work in teams.

### Terms

The CDF will provide the equipment and materials needed for the project and fieldtrips. The volunteer will receive a detailed training to ensure he/she collects data correctly. The volunteer will be under the supervision of the scientists responsible for the project and will comply with the daily working schedule. The volunteer must faithfully comply with the internal rules of the CDF and will conduct fieldwork strictly following the rules and regulations of the Galápagos National Park.

### How to apply

Applicants must send all documents together in one email; which include application forms and the enclosed required documents. The application package must be sent to the following e-mail address: [vol@fcdarwin.org.ec](mailto:vol@fcdarwin.org.ec). The application deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

The application forms are available on our website at [www.darwinfoundation.org](http://www.darwinfoundation.org), in the volunteer section. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteers and Scholars Program or request the application form at: [vol@fcdarwin.org.ec](mailto:vol@fcdarwin.org.ec)