

# ***Audubon Canyon Ranch***

## ***2009 Helen Pratt Fellowship***

Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) is accepting applications for the 2009 Helen Pratt Fellowship. ACR seeks a highly qualified postdoctoral researcher to work on scientific issues relevant to the conservation of colonial waterbirds, or the role of colonial waterbirds in wetland conservation. Particularly appropriate are applicants targeting careers with nonprofit conservation organizations with a focus on estuarine or wetland science. Fellowship selection is based on previous experience and a proposed investigation of herons or egrets (Ardeidae), with a focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Landscape scale habitat relationships of herons or egrets, especially with regard to alternatives for managing wetland landscapes
- Effects of human activity or habitat alteration on demographic patterns in herons or egrets
- Alternatives for management of seasonal wetlands, levees and impounded marshes, or other wetland landscapes
- The role of herons or egrets, as top predators, in the restoration of wetlands or the management of rare or invasive species
- The influence of herons or egrets on the landscape, as agents of connectivity among wetlands or between wetlands and uplands.

Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that incorporate collaborative use of available data at Audubon Canyon Ranch, including individual nest data collected twice weekly since 1967 at ACR's Bolinas Lagoon heronry (Pratt and Winkler 1985, *Auk* 102:49-63) and data on colony size and focal nest success collected monthly since 1991 throughout the northern San Francisco Bay area (Kelly et al. 2007, *Waterbirds* 30: 455-478; [www.egret.org/atlas.html](http://www.egret.org/atlas.html)). Additional information on conservation science at Audubon Canyon Ranch is available at [www.egret.org/library.html](http://www.egret.org/library.html) and [www.egret.org/sci\\_cont\\_pdfs/Scientific\\_Contributions\\_20080423.pdf](http://www.egret.org/sci_cont_pdfs/Scientific_Contributions_20080423.pdf).

The selected Fellow will be expected to collaborate with other ACR scientific staff on the proposed project, provide interim progress reports, and submit one or more finished manuscripts to a peer-reviewed scientific publication. In addition, the Fellow will assume a collaborative role in grant-writing and will be encouraged to use successful funding efforts to support continuing work at ACR, after the two-year Fellowship period has ended.

### ***Selection criteria***

- PhD in a field related to the proposed topic of study (or completion of PhD before January 2009).
- Demonstrated ability to publish scientific results

- Prior experience in related study
- Quality of the proposed research, including appropriateness of the design, scope, and analytical approach
- The potential scientific productivity of the project, including the likelihood of producing at least one major scientific publication and the value of the project as basis for continuing investigation
- The practical relevance of the project to regional conservation in the San Francisco Bay area, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or the Central Valley of California
- The likely contribution of the proposed work to understanding principles in conservation science
- Previous collaborations and current relationships with scientists actively involved in the study of colonial waterbirds
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and with collaborators.
- Field research experience and bird identification skills
- Experience working with nonprofit organizations
- Demonstrated ability to win grants

The length of the Fellowship is two years (contingent on satisfactory performance) beginning in January, 2009. The selected Fellow will receive an annual salary of \$45,000 per year, plus mileage, an optional medical and dental benefits package, three months per year of full-time field technician assistance, a modest provision for research supplies and equipment, and private housing in a cabin at ACR's Cypress Grove Research Center on Tomales Bay, near Point Reyes National Seashore.

## ***Application process***

The application must be submitted as .doc or .pdf files; illustrations can be formatted as separate .jpg or .pdf files. Submit the following materials to [cgrc@egret.org](mailto:cgrc@egret.org), with "HP Fellowship" in the subject line.

### APPLICATION OUTLINE

1. Cover letter: introduction and personal statement summarizing experiences that prepare the applicant for the proposed work and how the Fellowship fits into career plans (one page maximum).
2. Proposed research (one-page limit, not including cover page, literature citations, tables, or figures): The text should be single-spaced and presented in at least a 10-point font. Tables and figures must be appended to the body of the text on separate pages or submitted separately; do not incorporate them into the body of the text.
  - a) Cover page: project title, applicant's name, current affiliation, address, telephone, and email.
  - b) Introduction and rationale: background of scientific problem, conservation relevance, and relevant work to justify the investigation.
  - c) Question or hypotheses to be addressed: question or problem stated clearly, followed by precise objectives of the work.
  - d) Tentative work plan: the anticipated field work and analytical approach.
  - e) Anticipated results and value of work
  - f) Literature cited
  - g) Figures or tables
3. Curriculum Vitae

4. Professional references: email and telephone contact information for three references selected from research mentors, scientific collaborators, or colleagues and a brief description of your relationship with each.

#### APPLICATION TIMETABLE

- We will begin reviewing applications on November 17, 2008
- Applications will be accepted until the position is filled
- We expect the fellowship to begin in January, 2009

#### CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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John Kelly: [kellyjp@egret.org](mailto:kellyjp@egret.org)  
Director, Conservation Science and Habitat Protection

Emiko Condeso: [emiko@egret.org](mailto:emiko@egret.org)  
Conservation Biologist/GIS Specialist

### ***About Audubon Canyon Ranch***

Audubon Canyon Ranch was founded in 1962 to protect one of the most important heronries along the California coast. ACR owns and manages a system of wildlife sanctuaries in Marin and Sonoma Counties, in the northern San Francisco Bay area. Conservation science at ACR focuses on regional issues relevant to the landscapes surrounding our sanctuaries and throughout central coastal California. We also conduct education programs for children and adults, to promote ecological literacy through direct experience with the natural world.