



Student Internships for Hummingbird Conservation Fieldwork May 8 – July 19, 2013

For the past 5 years, the Hummingbird Monitoring Network has sponsored internships in Arizona for Latin American students whose research focuses on hummingbirds. This year, we would like to extend the internship to US Students. If you are interested in this internship, you will be working with students from Mexico, Ecuador, and Bolivia and with scientists associated with the different projects described below. Interns working with the Hummingbird Monitoring Network will be trained in a variety of hummingbird field study techniques and will gather field data that will provide information for the Borderlands Habitat Restoration Initiative and a climate change research project titled “Combining time-series data, ecology and physiology to predict the consequences of climate change on hummingbird diversity”. These studies will occur at a variety of sites in southeastern Arizona and possibly in Sonora. You will live in Patagonia, Arizona.

The climate change research will include physiology experiments as well as experiments that investigate how hummingbird nectar resources respond to climatic/environment variables. It begins with a meeting of the science team from April 5-10 in southeastern Arizona. During this meeting, we will further refine/define the experiments for assessing how climate variables influence the amount of floral resources available for hummingbirds and learn protocols for some of the physiology studies that will help assess hummingbirds’ response to climate change.

At our study sites for restoring hummingbird habitats, there will be plantings of hummingbird nectar plants and we will assess how hummingbirds are responding to these restoration efforts. This is a continuation of the projects from previous years and is in association with the Borderlands Habitat Restoration Initiative. This project will begin in early May with a training workshop.

This year, interns will be trained and conduct the following field activities that will be used for both the climate change research and restoration project:

- Evaluate hummingbird abundance using point counts
- Estimate hummingbird nesting activity
- Participate in trend monitoring for hummingbirds
- Characterize plant phenology and floral abundance
- Estimate the availability of nectar
- Participate in physiology studies to assess energetic response to variation in the thermal environment
- Estimate the impact of environmental variables on nectar production

Internships for US students will begin on May 8 with two weeks of training and then will last for approximately 2 months. HMN will pay all your living expenses and a \$500.00 per month stipend. If you have a vehicle that can be used for field work during the internship, HMN will also pay vehicle expenses (to be negotiated upon acceptance of the internship). If you are interested in participating in HMN’s Internship program, please send your resume’/CV and/or answer the following questions and send your responses via e-mail to Susan Wethington at swething@dakotacom.net.

1. Why are you interested in participating in HMN’s Student Internship program?
2. How will this help you attain your educational goals and needs?
3. Briefly describe your prior educational and field experience.
4. Briefly describe what you would like to learn and accomplish while an intern.
5. How proficient are you in Spanish?
6. What do you hope to accomplish while in Arizona or what will make the internship valuable to you?

Please also contact Susan if you have would like more information or have additional questions.