



JOB TITLE	Biological Technician (Aplomado Falcon)		
REPORTS TO	Aplomado Falcon Program Director and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Biologist		
BASED AT (OFFICE LOCATION)	On Site - Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge TEXAS		
REGULAR/TEMPORARY	Temporary	FULL/PART TIME	Full Time

MISSION

Conserving Birds of Prey Worldwide

WORK WITH US

The Peregrine Fund protects the earth’s 561+ species of raptors, partnering with local people on five continents to inspire action and preserve essential habitat. Support comes from donors, corporations, and government grants. We were founded in 1970 to rescue the Peregrine Falcon from extinction by pioneering ways to breed and release them across North America. With that historic success, our mission grew to encompass all raptor species worldwide. Today we:

- Restore critically endangered species
- Research little-known species
- Train and support students
- Engage all ages with environmental education
- Conserve habitat

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, which is an unparalleled network of public lands and waters (called Refuges) that are administered by FWS to conserve, manage, and restore fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of the present and future generations of Americans. However, USFWS cannot accomplish this mission without the help of countless partners, and The Peregrine Fund has been an incredible partner to the Refuge for over 30 years. The partnership between TPF and the Refuge started with captive Aplomado Falcon releases in the 1990’s and has grown to include long-term Aplomado monitoring and habitat management efforts.

The Peregrine Fund is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We ensure all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

The successful applicant will be required to complete a background screening before final offer of employment is made.



POSITION SUMMARY

The Peregrine Fund (TPF), in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is seeking **TWO Biological Technicians** to conduct habitat management, monitoring, and research at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. This opportunity is intended for enthusiastic young professionals with a deep interest in advancing their career goals related to habitat management, wildlife conservation, endangered species recovery, and raptor biology.

Habitat management involves follow-up spraying of mesquite and huisache re-sprouts where mechanical treatments have previously occurred or at other selected sites where grassland habitat is compromised by various types of invasive species encroachment. The team will travel to different work site units beginning each morning which are typically less than an hour drive from LANWR housing. Work is accomplished by hiking in grids together with backpack sprayers spraying the target species while keeping track of completed and yet to be completed areas within the unit. Work involves a lot of hiking and carrying backpack sprayers (25 - 40 pounds) in hot conditions. Safe handling, mixing, and application of FWS approved chemicals which will require a safety and procedural course provided by FWS. It is possible travel to additional FWS refuge(s) to assist as needed with prairie restoration will occur. Aransas NWR, approximately a five hour drive northeast up the coastal bend is also accomplishing similar restoration efforts and could ask for assistance from this crew. There will be opportunities to assist LANWR biologist with other duties such as waterfowl banding, breeding bird surveys, and possibly other wildlife and wildland/water management. There will also be opportunities to assist with some aspects of The Peregrine Fund's Aplomado Falcon field work such as helping biologists maintain nest structures, help monitor for occupancy/productivity, and assist with banding nestlings/band reading.

The Refuge will provide a vehicle, tools, and personal protective equipment (PPE) required to accomplish the duties of the position. Training will be provided for all equipment that the technician is asked to use. Use of PPE will be mandatory for any activity that requires it. Heavy equipment, UTV/ATVs, and chainsaws may not be used by the technician unless the official U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service training process is completed. Technicians will be offered opportunities to attend some of these training sessions and will be encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The purpose of these positions is to perform a variety of biological field duties in support of The Peregrine Fund and FWS' ongoing partnership focused on endangered Northern Aplomado Falcon recovery.



RESPONSIBILITIES AND SCOPE

Primary duties of the Biological Technician will include, but are not limited to:

1. Work with Refuge biologist to use chemical and mechanical treatments to manage invasive plant species, particularly invasive brush, to enhance coastal prairie communities to benefit Aplomado Falcon recovery.
2. Work with TPF biologists as main duties of grassland management overlap with The Peregrine Fund Aplomado Falcon field season (February - June). i.e., nest structure maintenance, band reading, territory occupancy and productivity surveys, and assisting TPF biologists with banding of nestlings.
3. Assist Refuge Biologist with inventory and monitoring of coastal prairie management units.
4. Assist with other coastal prairie restoration projects.

Secondary duties of the Biological Technician may include, but are not limited to:

1. Assist with waterfowl surveys.
 - Mottled duck banding.
 - Water level management in wetland management units.
 - Other wildlife surveys as needed (e.g., spotlight surveys).
 - Wetland and thornscrub restoration projects.
 - Management and analysis of data gathered from surveys and habitat restoration work.

Other duties may include miscellaneous tasks, as needed, to support the Refuge's Biology Program and TPF's Aplomado Falcon Recovery Program.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- A valid driver's license, clean driving record, and ability to provide documentation; a personal vehicle is required for personal time off and getting to-and-from the Refuge
- Must be willing and able to obtain a Texas state pesticide certification (study materials will be provided by USFWS); and/or be willing to apply pesticides safely and legally under the license of the Refuge Biologist
- Effective communication skills with diverse audiences
- Ability to work independently in remote areas
- Able and willing to perform duties outdoors in varying weather conditions and capable of participating in sustained physical labor



PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- A degree (or pursuing a degree) in wildlife biology, ecology, botany, natural resource management, parks and recreation or other related disciplines
- Knowledge of the basic procedure and technical terminology used in the field of plant ecology and invasive species management
- Knowledge of and/or experience with the techniques used to mix and apply herbicide to manage invasive species
- Ability to follow assigned protocols to perform tasks with many steps
- Skills and ability to resolve a full range of problems or situations when performing a variety of tasks in the field or office setting
- Be willing and able to obtain ATV/UTV, Chainsaw, and Wildland Fire training certifications (if offered; will be provided by FWS)
- Knowledge and skill in taking exact measurements, performing mathematics, some of which may be complicated, and keeping detailed and precise records to collect and assemble data
- Skill in maintaining and safely operating motorized vehicles and specialized equipment including: 4x4 vehicles in an off-road environment, farm tractors, ATVs, UTVs, chainsaws, weed eaters, etc.
- Experience and/or knowledge with the ESRI Field Applications (e.g., Field Maps, Survey 123, etc.) and GPS equipment
- Experience identifying and counting waterfowl
- Experience in backcountry hiking and navigation in steep terrain
- Strong desire to pursue a career in the natural resources field as a land manager, wildlife biologist, researcher, or similar position, with a particular preference for applicants with interest in prairie management and raptor biology

WORKING CONDITIONS

This position requires physical exertion such as walking over wet and rough surfaces, bending, crouching, stooping, lifting, or reaching. Hand and finger dexterity and physical coordination may involve fine and precise procedures, delicate adjustments, or exact measurements. Duties are performed both indoors and outdoors. Temperature and weather extremes can be encountered in the performance of outdoor duties. The technician is expected to conduct duties in a safe and orderly manner so as not to endanger self, coworkers, or resources. Working outdoors, the technician may be exposed to high heat, high humidity, venomous snakes, stinging and biting insects, and thorny vegetation.

Work will primarily be carried out Monday-Friday between the hours of 7 am and 5 pm. However, the technician may occasionally be asked to come early and/or stay late and may be asked to come in on weekends as well. Time off will be granted.



LOCATION BACKGROUND

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge) is located on the southern tip of Texas along the Gulf Coast. This 120,000-acre refuge is the largest tract of natural habitat left in the Rio Grande Valley and consists primarily of dense thornscrub, coastal prairie, and various wetland types. The refuge provides important habitat for the critically endangered Northern Aplomado Falcon and managing coastal prairie to benefit Aplomado Falcons is a priority for the Refuge. It is also home to one of the last breeding populations of the critically endangered ocelot found in the United States, provides essential wintering habitat for 80% of the continental population of Redheads and numerous other waterfowl species, serves as a home or temporary stopping point for nearly half of all bird species found in North America, and also hosts a diversity of other wildlife, including bobcats, white-tailed deer, and javelina. The Refuge is located within 45 minutes of multiple small towns (Los Fresnos, Rio Hondo, Laguna Vista), moderately large cities (Brownsville and Harlingen, which both have airports), and South Padre Island, a popular beach destination.

COMPENSATION

- Wage: \$16.83 - \$18.88 per hour, 40 hours a week
- Housing will be provided at LANWR
- Length of Season: 12 months of employment
- No benefits or paid time off provided

HOW TO APPLY

Send via email a single file attachment (PDF preferred) including a cover letter and resume to: employment@peregrinefund.org. Please name the file "LastName_FirstName_Biological Technician" and include the job title you are applying for in the subject line.

ESTIMATED APPLICATION TIMELINE

Accepting applications - March 31 - April 27

Interviews Conducted - April 28 - May 9

Position Start Date - June 2025