

INTER STORY

Meet Anna Money
Biology
Sophomore
Warner Park Nature Center

THE INTERNSHIP

I helped with the BIRD program's work in observing and documenting the park's bird population, distribution, productivity and survivorship. So basically, I helped study the birds and how they're doing. This ranged from capturing and banding birds and contributing data to a national dataset, to observing their behavior, to tracking birds with radio transmitters, to educating the public and getting to show kids how cool nature is.

SKILLS GAINED

Science means nothing if you can't COMMUNICATE it! You can uncover a groundbreaking scientific discovery that can change the world, but if you can't communicate what it means, it will change nothing. Knowledge kept to yourself (or a tiny group of elite people who understand scientific gibberish) is useless, and frankly selfish. If you want everyday people to care, to see what you see, you have to be able to tell them!



HOW YOU FOUND YOUR INTERNSHIP

I was offered the position by Dr. Lewis my freshman year, because he knew I was interested in environmental biology. I did the internship that summer, and was offered the position again this past summer.

FAVORITE PART

Being able to learn about the complex and beautiful environment I live in, and to contribute to the conservation of the fascinating creatures that live here was a gift. And learning the methods of conducting real-life scientific research was invaluable. I'll be using these skills for the rest of my career, whatever I end up researching.

A CHALLENGE

The self-discipline aspect was definitely the most difficult for me. Conducting independent research is something that is fascinating and fulfilling, but also involves a lot of reading scientific papers, and repeating methods, and doing things that aren't always immediately interesting. It's difficult for me to discipline myself enough to get through the more mundane aspects of research, but the payoffs are so, so worth it. I struggled with that a lot this summer, but I've definitely learned a lot about myself and the nature of perseverance through it.

ADVICE FOR OTHER STUDENTS

My advice to other students is the same as what I just said: Be a communicator! The only way you can change the world with what you know is if you can share that knowledge with the world. If you want to be a GOOD scientist, be a science translator too.