



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Aviculture Placement

Why do we need you?

At WWT, we create and conserve wetlands and save species. We bring awe-inspiring nature up close and let it do the talking. In this role you will be assisting the bird team in all aspects of caring for our avian species; it is a rare opportunity to gain experience in all aspects of avian care. This role would be an ideal placement for someone who has recently completed an animal-based qualification and is looking to develop their practical skill set in preparation for a career in the zoo industry.

Who will be responsible for your role? Deputy Living Collections Manager for Aviculture

Where will you be based? WWT Slimbridge Centre

How much time will it take? We have two full-time placements available. The first is to start as soon as possible and would be for between 5-6 months (finishing by August 2021). The second is a year-long placement starting in August / September 2021.

What will you be doing?

- Assisting with the cleaning of duckery ponds, coops and housing facilities.
- Vital bird observation tasks.
- Maintenance of pens and breeding facilities.
- Bird feeding according to best practice guidelines.
- Assisting with bird catches and movements.
- Assisting in ringing birds.
- Help in administering health treatments.
- Using training techniques to support the bird team in their work.
- Assisting with feeding in on-show areas.
- The potential for research experience and censoring techniques.
- The potential for experience in bird habitat and exhibit design.
- An induction in bio-security and best practice care.
- Interacting with visitors about WWT
- Completion of a portfolio evidencing all the skills and experience gathered during your placement time
- Completion of a project of your choice within any one of the three sections (mammals, amphibians, display birds)
- Preparing to give an end of placement presentation to Slimbridge Centre staff about your placement project

Who are we looking for?

To be effective in this role you will need:

- To be a team player with the ability to work under your own initiative.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- A can-do attitude.
- Experience in bird keeping and practical habitat management.
- Understanding of bird welfare.
- An understanding of WWT and its aims.

How will you benefit?

- This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer within an internationally important wetland site in a hands-on role.
- A completed portfolio detailing all the transferable skills you will acquire during your placement.
- Suitable uniform is provided to all regular volunteers.
- Discount is available in the cafe and shop on the days of volunteering.
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres on presentation of your WWT name badge.
- Accommodation in our local volunteer hostel.
- Appropriate training will be provided.
- A review after the first month to ensure the role is right for you.
- A suitable reference to help you apply for jobs.

General notes:

This position may require you to volunteer during weekends and public holidays to ensure objectives are met. The exact hours you are able to contribute will be discussed prior to placement.

Accommodation may be available in our nearby volunteer hostel, this would include utility bills. We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred for travel to the site. Any pre-agreed out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the course of the role will be reimbursed.

This position is entirely voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer placement is not intended to create a legally binding contract between us and any agreement may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

How to Apply:

Please go to www.wwt.org.uk/join-and-support/volunteering/volunteer-placements/ for full details of this role and an application form. If you have any problems locating the information or filling out the application form please email Volunteering@wwt.org.uk.

Closing Date:

Please return all completed application forms by **Friday 27th November 2020**. After this date successful applicants will be asked to come to the WWT Slimbridge for an informal interview to find out more about the role and discuss availability after which suitable candidates will be offered placements. Interviews are likely to take place w/c 7th December 2020.

Date raised: May 2019

Date Reviewed: Sept 2019 SR / SH