VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Aviculture Support

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 Aviculture team in all aspects of caring for the birds in our living collection. This role would be an ideal placement for someone studying Animal Care/ Biology/ Ecology/ Conservation Science who is looking to gain hands-on experience.

Who will be responsible for your role? Aviculture Warden
Where will you be based? WWT Slimbridge Centre
How much time will it take? We are looking for volunteers who can offer 3 to 5 days per week, for a minimum of 6 weeks from April. Days start at 8.00am and finish at 4.30pm.

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.
- Vegetation work.
- Assisting with bird catches and movements.
- Assisting in ringing birds.
- Help in administering 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.

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.
- Ability to work independently and self-motivate.
- Good communication skills.
- Tractor, lawn mower and strimmer qualifications desirable.
- Full UK driving license desirable.

How will you benefit?

- This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer within an internationally important wetland site in a really hands-on role.
- 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 throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge.
- Appropriate training will be provided.
- A review after the first month to ensure the role is right for you.
- Accommodation in the volunteer hostel for full-time volunteers subject to availability.
- A suitable reference to help you apply for jobs.

General notes:

To make an effective contribution, we are asking you to be available for at least six weeks. Longer placements may be available if you would like to stay with us for a longer time period. This position may require you to volunteer during evenings, weekends and public holidays to ensure objectives are met. The exact hours you are able to contribute will be discussed prior to placement.

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.

Date raised: March 2017        Date Reviewed: August 2017 PV / SH