



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Bird Husbandry

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 Living Collections - Aviculture team in all aspects of caring for the birds in our living collection which includes rare and endangered species of wildfowl from around the world.

Someone with a background in animal care will find this a varied and interesting role within a supportive and experienced team. The role is also an ideal placement for someone looking to gain practical experience in animal care / biology / ecology or conservation science.

Who will be responsible for your role? Deputy Aviculture Manager and Living Collection Supervisors

Where will you be based? WWT Slimbridge Centre

How much time will it take? We have a number of opportunities available. We have one full-time placement available from April – mid-August which would include a place in our local volunteer hostel. Other opportunities are available to those who can offer from 2 to 5 days per week, for a minimum of 6 weeks, particularly at weekends. Days start at 8.00am and finish at 4.30pm. These roles can drop to 1 day a week when sufficient training has been completed. Roles can also help contribute towards courses that require practical experience.

What will you be doing?

- Bird feeding according to best practice guidelines.
- Assisting with bird catches and movements.
- Vital bird observation tasks.
- Maintenance of pens and breeding facilities.
- Assisting with the cleaning of duckery ponds, coops and housing facilities.
- Assisting in ringing birds.
- Help in administering treatments.
- Using training techniques to support the bird team in their work.
- Assisting with feeding within on-show areas.
- Vegetation work.
- 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.

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 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 work 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.

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:

Full details of this role and an online application form can be found at www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer. If you have any problems locating the information or filling out the application form please email volunteer.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk

Closing Date:

Please return all completed application forms by **Friday 22nd April 2022**. After this date successful applicants will be asked to come to the centre for an informal interview to find out more about the role and discuss availability after which suitable candidates will be offered placements.

Date raised: March 2017

Date Reviewed: April 2022