



Job Description

Post: Monitoring Officer (Project Godwit)

Grade: 6

Directorate: HQ, Conservation

Location: WWT Welney Wetland Centre

Reporting to: Project Manager/Senior Conservation Breeding Officer

Main function of post:

Responsible for the collection of monitoring data for black-tailed godwits at Welney and surrounding sites, as part of Project Godwit. You will conduct fieldwork to determine return rates, breeding success, and reasons for breeding failure for the black-tailed godwit population in the Fens. Working at Welney Wetland Centre you will also provide ongoing support to other species recovery and monitoring projects, including the Corncrake reintroduction trial.

Project Godwit is a partnership between WWT and RSPB with major funding from the EU LIFE Nature Programme, The HSBC 150th Anniversary Fund, Natural England and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Supervisory responsibilities: Volunteers.

Main duties of the post

Monitoring tasks include:

- To work alongside the RSPB Project Godwit monitoring team, in implementing a programme of data gathering for black-tailed godwits in the Fens mostly unaccompanied and with minimal supervision. . This is likely to include:
 - Colour ring reading of returning birds
 - Locating and monitoring wader nests , using temperature loggers and nest cameras
 - Catching and ringing of newly hatched chicks, under supervision/license.
 - Monitoring the distribution and abundance of known predators of godwits and other ground-nesting birds
- To work alongside the WWT Welney centre team to provide support to other species monitoring projects when required, including corncrakes. This will likely include:
 - Assisting with night surveys for calling male corncrakes
 - Assisting with the catching and ringing of wild Corncrakes (via call backs and mist netting/ under license and supervision).
- To work alongside the WWT Welney Centre team to provide support in avicultural duties revolving round the care of captive Corncrakes (pre-release), in accordance with agreed protocols and procedures ensuring that the five provisions for animal care are met, these being:
 - Provision of food and water

- Provision of a suitable environment
- Provision of animal health care
- Provision of opportunity to express most normal behaviour
- Provision of protection from fear and distress
- Developing and maintain good working relationships through frequent communication with local stakeholders, including farmers, reserve site managers, partner NGO's, statutory agencies and volunteer data-gatherers
- Storing collected data systematically, and entering it into spreadsheets/databases in an organised and timely fashion
- To collate and review data for reporting, and assist with the production of post-season reports.
- To support the delivery of Project Godwit as a whole, by participating in project planning, administration and other activities, as requested.
- To support the work of the Conservation directorate as a whole, by participating in project development, knowledge-sharing and team-building, as requested.
- To have due regard for health and safety issues, including ensuring that all work is covered by an adequate risk assessment.

In addition to the duties and responsibilities listed, the post holder is required to perform any other reasonable duties that may be assigned by the supervisors shown above, from time to time.

Date raised: 13/01/2023

Amended: 15/01/2023

Person Specification

1. Qualifications

Essential:

- Good basic education to a minimum of A Level standard or equivalent.
- Full UK driving license.

Desirable:

- Further degree in a relevant discipline
- Bird ringing license
- Four wheel drive certification

2. Experience

Essential:

- Experience of conducting ornithological fieldwork, including the use of birdwatching optics (binoculars and telescopes) and reading of colour rings.
- Experience of rigorous data collection and storage, in both a field and office setting.
- Computer skills with good working knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Outlook.
- Experience of independently planning and managing a day-to-day work programme efficiently and effectively
- Persevering with fieldwork for substantial periods in challenging conditions and with limited support
- Specialist ornithological fieldwork, such as nest-finding, wild bird capture and handling, bird ringing, wildlife telemetry

Desirable:

- Experience of implementing effective, legal and humane pest control techniques.
- Experience of working on *ex situ* species conservation programmes.
- Experience of operating four wheel drive vehicles off road.
- Demonstrable experience in the management of captive animals, in particular waterbird aviculture.
- Experience of working in a biosecure environment.

3. Managerial & Supervisory

Essential:

- An enthusiastic team worker who displays a willingness to collaborate and openly share information with colleagues in a regular and timely manner.

Type of staff	Number managed	Number supervised
Employed Staff	0	0
Volunteers/Casual Workers	0	Up to 3

Contractors/Consultants	0	0
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4. Responsibility

Essential:

- Ability to conduct fieldwork independently, including overcoming logistical and practical challenges
- Ability to time manage a complex work load
- Ability to develop and manage databases/spreadsheets and enter data in a rigorous and timely fashion
- Ability to manage own time efficiently.
- Ability to work independently in the field with appropriate attention to health and safety regulations.

Levels of Responsibility:

Type of Responsibility	Level (£'s)
Expenditure (exc. payroll)	£500
Cash Handling	£500
Assets (required for job, exc. buildings)	£5,000
Visitors (per annum)	n/a

5. Creative Ability

Essential:

- Ability to bring a creative approach to problem solving, finding practical solutions.
- Implement an agreed research programme independently in the field and office
- Overcome technical and practical problems in the collection and analysis of scientific data on animals and habitats

6. Contact

Essential:

- Excellent communication skills in English; both verbally and in writing.
 - Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate with a wide range of audiences, and maintain effective relationships with colleagues, partners and funders
 - Produce well-written reports tailored to specific audiences
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General Notes

This is a full-time position for a fixed period of six months. During the fieldwork season, this position will require working on weekends and bank holidays, and working outside of normal hours. Considerable flexibility will be required during the fieldwork season.

A full, current UK driving license is essential as travel around the site and between nearby sites, will be a requirement of the post, as is a willingness to independently use 4WD vehicles on off-road terrain (training provided if necessary).