



Role Description

Assistant Volunteer Bird Warden Calf of Man

Reporting to: Calf Ornithological Warden

1. Overall Purpose:

The Assistant Bird Warden, managed by Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT), will help support the Ornithological Warden with their duties. This supports MWT role in managing the Calf Bird Observatory on behalf of Manx National Heritage, the landowner.

2. Job role and responsibilities:

The role is a varied one and will involve helping with a variety of day-to-day responsibilities and duties, for example, routine daily bird census counts and bird ringing, in addition to more specific studies, including the Manx shearwater monitoring programme, monitoring other breeding seabirds, various colour ringing projects and undertaking sea watches.

3. Specific roles:

3.1 Manx Shearwater Recovery Project:

You will assist in managing the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project, undertaking call-back burrow monitoring, night-time visits to colonies to catch and ring adult Shearwaters and undertake night-time visits to colonies to catch and ring young 'star-gazing' Shearwaters.

3.2 Colour ringing:

You will assist with the various colour ringing projects including shags and Chough, including nest recording. Later in the season, you will undertake fieldwork to re-sight colour ringed birds to allow productivity rates and juvenile survival to be estimated.

3.3 Storm Petrel:

You will undertake night-time surveys of suitable coastline to record presence of birds inshore or coming ashore to potential nesting areas. Locations to be agreed in advance.

3.4 Puffin project:

You will support the marine officer (MWT) in deployment and recovery of the decoy puffins, speaker system and camera traps at the start and end of the season. Carry out daily checks of the speaker system to ensure it is working correctly and review weekly the camera trap footage and ensure batteries are replaced where necessary. Any sighting to be reported to the marine officer (MWT).

4. Additional supporting role

In addition to the above, some time can be spent assisting the Ornithological Warden with:

- Maintenance and repair of bird equipment, including the various bird trap and nets
- Habitat management
- Breeding bird surveys
- Specific species studies such as seabird monitoring and nest recording for other key species such as Eider, Peregrine, Chough and Raven
- Contributing to the annual reporting and data entry throughout the year
- Support the Estate team, where necessary



5. Person Specification:

5.1 Experience:

	Essential	Desirable
Wide range of bird survey, observations and biological recording	x	
Nature reserve or estate management		x
Nature conservation and land management		x
Wildlife Surveys		x
Dealing with the public and guiding groups		x
Working in rough coastal or isolated environments		x
Bird ringing or handling birds	x	
Climbing and rope work		x

5.2 Knowledge:

	Essential	Desirable
Health and Safety procedures		x
Relevant qualification in nature conservation or land management		x
Coastal habitats and ecosystems		x
Wildlife survey methods/techniques		x

5.3 Skills:

	Essential	Desirable
Good communication and interpersonal skills, including working in a small team and communicating to the public	x	
IT and computer literate	x	
Species and bird identification	x	
Bird ringing and handling	x	
First Aid qualifications		x
Climbing and rope work		x
ATV and/or tractor driving qualifications		x
Habitat management		x

5.4 Personal Qualities:

	Essential	Desirable
Enjoyment of teamwork	x	
Using your initiative	x	
Self-motivated and enthusiastic	x	
Flexible approach to working outside of normal hours, including weekends and bank holidays	x	
Interest in wildlife and conservation	x	



6. Details of Placement

6.1 Length of Stay:

The period is from early March to the early November (36 weeks).

6.2 Subsistence:

An allowance of £40 per week towards food will be provided and will be paid monthly. Travel to/from the Calf (from Port St Mary), accommodation and utilities will be provided.

6.3 Working Week:

The nature of the work will require a very flexible approach, with much of the work required outside of 'normal' hours, including weekends and bank holidays.

6.4 Location:

The Assistant warden will be based on the Calf of Man, an islet off the south of the Isle of Man, owned by Manx National Heritage.

6.5 Leave:

There is a leave entitlement of 15 days. Due to the nature of the work, holidays are normally taken only after consultation with the line manager. This is to maintain cover to meet the requirements of two wardens remaining on the Calf at any one time to keep the Calf operational.

6.6 Accommodation:

The Assistant Bird warden will be provided with accommodation in the farmhouse building. This accommodation is basic but adequate and should be kept clean and in good condition. Living on the Calf requires careful use of water, fuel and supplies. Basic living facilities are provided including cooking utensils, bedding and satellite TV, heating etc but the post holder is responsible for ordering and paying for their own food and personal provisions.

6.7 Training:

Training will be provided, such as ATV and tractor driving. Rodenticide training will also be given to support the Manx Shearwater project. PPE will also be provided, where necessary.