



Calf of Man: Ornithological Warden Role Description

Calf of Man Bird Warden

Responsible To: MWT Marine Officer

Responsible For: Volunteers, students, placements

Working With: MNH Staff, Contractors and Volunteers

Overall Purpose of Role

The Bird Warden is one of two posts administered and managed by the Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) on behalf of Manx National Heritage (MNH), who own the Calf of Man. The principal responsibility of the Bird Warden is to maintain the Bird Observatory's ornithological operations on the site, including all daily census coverage, ringing operations, and information dissemination.

In addition, the Bird Warden will be responsible for supervising and directing the work of the seasonal Volunteer Bird Warden, carry out visitor liaison/public engagement and assist the Estate Warden where required.

Main Responsibilities

The principal responsibility of the Bird Warden is to maintain all requirements of the Bird Observatory work, achieving daily census coverage and recording of bird populations, maintaining a programme of bird ringing and ensuring safe storage and dissemination of data. Ensure continued participation in established colour-ringing and tagging projects and monitoring of breeding bird numbers through species specific surveys and participation in the BTO nest record scheme and more local studies such as the Manx Shearwater recovery project.

Duties include the following areas of work

Bird recording

- Daily Census Coverage. Recording of bird species and their numbers should be conducted using appropriate survey methods, including visual migration counts and more general observations, bird ringing, seawatching and other species-specific survey methods.
- Bird ringing. Mist netting to be undertaken on each suitable morning throughout the season with other conventional trapping methods to be employed to increase diversity of species caught. This forms a key element of the daily census totals.
- Visual migration. Counts should be conducted during any early mornings when passage is evident. This forms part of the daily census counts.
- Sea watches. These should be undertaken at suitable times during the season. This forms part of the daily census counts.





- Manx Shearwater Project. Undertake Manx Shearwater breeding surveys using established call-back methodology, with additional night-time catching of breeding adults and star-gazing juveniles.
- Colour ringing. Maintain colour ringing projects on the Calf (and in association with Manx RG), including Chough, Shag, Herring, Lesser & Great Black-backed Gull, Wheatear, Grey Wagtail, Pied/White Wagtail and Stonechat.
- Colony ringing. An integral element of monitoring breeding success for seabird species including Razorbill and in particular European Shag and the three Larus gulls.
- Storm Petrels. Catching using mist nets & tape lure during suitable nights between June – August.
- Sea bird nest monitoring. Annually there should be counts of cliff nesting and other colony seabirds, by foot and from a boat, with data collected for the National Seabird Census and should follow the guidelines of the JNCC's Seabird Monitoring Handbook.
- Kitterland. Surveys should include monitoring numbers of gull nests and any other species located during visits and assisting with the monitoring for rat presence.
- Maintenance of ringing area and equipment. This includes net rides, other traps and general ringing supplies.
- Data entry. Should be completed daily or as soon as practicable. All ornithological records must be recorded via the Calf Avian log (excel), Trektellen/Birdtrack and DemOn. Non-avian records should be added to the relevant excel logs for general observations and records of moths and butterflies. Also, completion of the Annual report.
- Visiting ringers. Work with visiting ringers and provide training opportunities where possible ringers during the season. Utilise other bird volunteers to help with wider monitoring of bird species and survey types, such as BBS.

Additional Duties

- Rat recording/baiting. Support the Estate Warden, where necessary, in monitoring and reporting, including on Kitterland.
- Puffin Recovery Work. Support the work of the Manx Wildlife Trust's Puffin recovery project, including deployment of the decoys and speaker system.
- Support the Estate Warden where needed, including general maintenance of the Observatory.
- Visitor Liaison, including provision of advice to visitors, guiding visitor groups, organising visiting ringers and volunteers, providing briefings to guests regarding the operation of the Observatory.
- Ensure the Observatory is kept clean and tidy.
- Support with butterfly transect, moth trapping, lizard monitoring and monthly seal survey, where necessary.
- Annual reporting.

In addition, other projects, sometimes with MNH staff or volunteer/student involvement and may require the Bird warden's help and support.



Experience:

	Essential	Desirable
A or C permit	x	
Endorsements – full-grown, pullus and mist net for open nesting passerines/near passerines, cavity nesting passerines/near passerines, birds of prey, waders, colony seabirds and cliff nesting seabirds.	x	
Endorsements – Waterfowl and heron's & egrets and whoosh netting for passerines.		x
Colour-ringing for open nesting passerines/near passerines, cavity nesting passerines/near passerines, colony seabirds and cliff nesting seabirds.	x	
Use of back-mounted devices (nano-tags)		x
Supervisors' endorsement		x
Dealing with the public and guiding groups		x
Working in rough coastal or isolated environments		x
Climbing and rope work		x
Working with and organising volunteers to carry out tasks safely	x	

Knowledge:

	Essential	Desirable
Bird surveys, identification and recording	x	
Coastal habitats and ecosystems		x
Wildlife survey methods/techniques		x

Skills:

	Essential	Desirable
Good communication and interpersonal skills, including working in a small team and communicating to the public	x	
Bird identification	x	
IT and computer literate, including the BTO's Demography Online programme	x	
General species identification and natural history		x
First Aid qualifications		x
Climbing and rope work		x
ATV and/or tractor driving qualifications		x
Habitat management		x

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	

A copy of your ringing licence and endorsements will be required as part of the application.



Details of Placement

Length of Stay:

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

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. Normal hours are 42 per week.

Location:

The Bird Warden will be based on the Calf of Man, an islet off the south of the Isle of Man. Living accommodation will be provided free of charge on site in the Observatory buildings.

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.

Accommodation:

The 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.

Training:

Training will be provided, such as ATV and tractor driving. PPE will also be provided, where necessary.