



Project Officer: East Coast Bird Tracking Project

BirdWatch Ireland is looking for a suitably qualified person to lead on a tracking programme of waterbirds and seabirds on the east coast of Ireland.

Post Title: East Coast Birds Tracking Project Officer

Department: Conservation & Science

Main place of work: BirdWatch Ireland HQ, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

Line Manager: Head of Conservation and Science

Period covered: Part time (4 days/ week), nine months between March 2016 - February 2017

Background

With advances in offshore renewable energies, including the development of new technologies offshore, there is a need to provide adequate environmental assessments of potential impacts on the waterbirds and seabirds, which act as useful indicators of environmental changes.

BirdWatch Ireland was recently successful in a bid for grant funding from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland that will involve the deployment of innovative tracking technology on seabirds and coastal waterbirds along the east coast of Ireland to gather key supporting information on birds in the marine environment to inform the scoping of a *Bird Sensitivity Map for Offshore Renewable Energy*.

About BirdWatch Ireland

BirdWatch Ireland is the largest independent conservation organisation in Ireland. Established in 1968, we currently have over 15,000 members and supporters and a local network of 30 branches nationwide. The primary objective of BirdWatch Ireland is the protection of wild birds and their habitats in Ireland through the efforts of our staff, members and volunteers alike. In order to fulfil this objective, we carry out extensive research and survey work, operate applied conservation projects and manage a network of reserves nationwide; we prepare and advocate policies; we recruit, retain and service a growing membership base; we promote the importance of this work through field education, dedicated media (such as *Wings* magazine, the BirdWatch Ireland website, our annual journal *Irish Birds* and other publications) and to the national media.

Responsibilities

The successful applicant will be expected to participate in coordinate the catching of, and deployment of data loggers to, a sample of waterbirds and seabirds on the east coast of Ireland. This will include locating suitable catching areas and helping to secure appropriate permits for the tagging activities. They will lead on all aspects of data collection, mapping, modelling and reporting-

writing and will also contribute to a longer-term programme of re-sighting colour-rings and promoting re-sightings among members of the public. They will also be required to liaise with BirdWatch Ireland's Species Research Officer and work closely together to help ensure that the tracking data collected will deliver in terms of informing the scoping exercise for the *Bird Sensitivity Map for Offshore Renewable Energy*. This will likely involve consultation with in-house and external species experts.

Skills required

The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Masters degree or higher in a relevant subject, or equivalent demonstrable skills and experience gained in an appropriate field project
- An understanding of the ecology of Ireland's birds, in particular waterbirds and seabirds
- Excellent fieldwork and bird identification skills
- Bird ringing experience
- Proven ability to work as part of a team with minimum supervision
- Proficient user of MS Excel, GIS mapping software and the ability to collate, record and analyse data
- Demonstrated experience writing scientific reports
- Excellent interpersonal skills for communicating with volunteers and the public, including social media experience
- Full and clean driving license

The following attributes are desirable for this post:

- Previous proven experience working with waterbirds and/ or seabirds
- Previous experience in project management
- Proven publication record
- An understanding of the renewable energy sector in Ireland, particularly in the marine environment
- Experience of catching, handling and tagging of waterbirds or seabirds
- Experience with GPS technology and collection of associated data

Salary scale

The full-time equivalent of the annual salary for this post is between €27,000 and €32,000 depending on previous experience. The suitable applicant will be required to provide an average of 28 hours per week. Leave entitlement is 20 days per annum *pro rata* plus statutory holidays.

Applications

A completed application form should be forwarded to Michelle Kavanagh, BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. Applications may also be sent to mkavanagh@birdwatchireland.ie indicating the job title in the subject line.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 12:00 on Friday, 11th March 2016. It is anticipated that interviews will be held in Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow the week of 21st March January, 2016. For further details about this post please contact us at info@birdwatchireland.ie.