

# **CURLEW EIP – Seasonal Position**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Post Title:</b>	Ecological Advisor, for the conservation of breeding Curlew, Lough Corrib
<b>Employer:</b>	BirdWatch Ireland
<b>Department:</b>	Conservation
<b>Main place of work:</b>	Headford, Co Galway
<b>Immediate Line Manager:</b>	Curlew EIP Project Manager
<b>Duration:</b>	April 2019 –August 2019, Full time
<b>Salary:</b>	€35,000 per annum, pro rata

Birdwatch Ireland, on behalf of the Curlew EIP Operational Group (OG), the members of which are BirdWatch Ireland (the Lead Partner), The Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association (INHFA), The Irish Grey Partridge Conservation Trust (IGPCT) and Teagasc are seeking to recruit a suitable person for the position of Seasonal Ecological Advisor, Lough Corrib.

### **Background**

The Irish breeding Curlew Operational Group were successful applicants for an innovative project to stem the decline of the Curlew in Ireland in 2 specific areas, Lough Corrib in County Galway, and the south Leitrim bogs area. The project is funded by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine's, European Innovation Partnership fund. It will trial new and innovative programmes to improve breeding outcomes in these areas, including: training farmers in predator control; nest protection through electric fencing; capital works to improve habitats; and a results based measure for Curlew.

### **Description of Role**

The Ecological Advisor will survey and monitor breeding Curlew populations and monitor nest sites for breeding outcomes. They will assist in the trial of the use of temporary electric fences to improve breeding outcomes. They will liaise with and provide advice and training to participating farmers on managing their land for Curlew.

### **Key aspect of the role**

- Survey and monitor breeding Curlew populations and monitor nest sites for breeding outcomes
- Determine areas for erection of temporary electric predator exclusion fences, primarily through intensive observations of breeding bird activity
- Determine ownership and land management on target sites
- Liaise with farmers participating in the results-based measures and landowners undertaking capital works, advising on the timings and methods and types of works required
- Undertake initial field scoring assessments against the selected indicators and discuss the results with the participant farmer
- Provide guidance and training to farmers participating in the trial on how scores may be improved
- In conjunction with the predator control operative, monitor predator populations
- Collation of all data and maintenance of GIS databases
- Contribute to relevant documents, including annual and final reports
- Assist with the assessment of stakeholder attitudes to the schemes

- Assist with the implementation of local outreach strategies, such as the Local Action Group and dissemination of materials for stakeholders and the general public
- Any other work as deemed appropriate

The successful candidate will be expected to work in close cooperation with the Project Manager (based in Lough Corrib) and the Curlew Keeper in Lough Corrib to achieve the overall objectives of the project.

### Terms and Conditions

Normal working hours are 09.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00 Monday to Friday. Employees are expected to be co-operative in working outside these hours if necessary and the post holder may be expected to work longer hours as the project requires during key times. Time off may be taken in lieu of extra hours worked. The salary for this position is €35,000 per annum, pro rata. Leave entitlement is 20 days per annum, pro rata, plus statutory holidays.

Please complete the application form available on the BirdWatch Ireland website ([www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie) see *jobs section*) or contact Michelle Kavanagh, 01 2819878 or email [mkavanagh@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:mkavanagh@birdwatchireland.ie). Please include a CV.

Application forms should be sent to [mkavanagh@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:mkavanagh@birdwatchireland.ie) (please put “Curlew EIP Ecological Advisor, Lough Corrib” in the subject box) or by post to BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow.

**Closing date for applications: 5pm on Thursday 28 March 2019. It is anticipated that interviews will be held the following week in Headford, Co Galway. Anticipated start date is Monday 15 April 2019.**

### Project Partners



### Funded by



<b>Essential criteria</b>	<b>Desirable criteria</b>
<b><i>Qualifications</i></b>	
A degree in a relevant scientific discipline, e.g., ecology, zoology, environmental science or similar	
<b><i>Experience</i></b>	
Experience of surveying and monitoring breeding waders	Experience surveying breeding Curlew
Good botanical knowledge and understanding of farmland and bog habitats	Experience of bird survey techniques
Experience of carrying out habitat improvements to benefit wildlife	Knowledge of results based schemes
Liaison with farmers/landowners, including provision of advice on management of farmland for biodiversity	Knowledge of predator tracks and signs
Excellent IT and report writing skills and good working knowledge of GIS	Experience in working with habitat management contractors
Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including strong understanding and experience in communications techniques and concepts	Organising training events and / or workshops
Demonstrated ability to develop strong collaborative relationships with a wide range of stakeholders with the ability to build effective relationships and partnerships	Experience producing advisory materials, newsletters etc
<b><i>Skills and abilities</i></b>	
Competent bird identification skills	Ability to communicate clearly with the media and the public, both verbally and in writing
Ability to work well with minimum supervision, be delivery and priority focused and responsible in relation to Health & Safety considerations	
Ability to work well as part of a team, be accountable to peers and take the lead when appropriate	
A full driving licence and access to own transport	
<b><i>Knowledge</i></b>	
Understanding of breeding wader ecology and the factors affecting breeding Curlew in Ireland	Understanding the sensitivities of the Irish farming community
Knowledge of Irish farming and the various schemes available to farmers	Understanding the sensitivities of Irish communities toward bogs
Familiarity with agricultural habitat types and an understanding of agricultural practices and their impacts on breeding waders	
<b><i>Disposition/circumstance</i></b>	
Willing to undertake lone working in accordance with agreed safety procedures	
Ability to work occasional weekends and evenings	