



CURLEW EIP JOB DESCRIPTION

Curlew Keeper for the conservation of breeding Curlew in South Leitrim

Employer:	BirdWatch Ireland
Department:	Conservation
Main place of work:	South Leitrim (around Drumod)
Immediate Line Manager:	Curlew EIP Project Manager
Duration:	Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2022 Full time (with possible extension until September 2023) subject to funding
Salary:	€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, is seeking to recruit a Curlew Keeper to systematically manage predation in the South Leitrim Bogs in the Republic of Ireland.

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 successful candidate will undertake systematic predator control at known Curlew breeding sites in the south Leitrim area. They will also work with the Project Manager and liaise with the Curlew Keeper in Lough Corrib to deliver a training program and trial a pilot Agri Environmental measure for farmers undertaking predator control. It is expected that the successful candidate will teach participants of the EIP, predator management compatible with the 1976 – 2018 Wildlife Acts and the standards set out by the Curlew EIP. Whilst carrying out the prescribed duties, they will ensure that all health and safety measures are undertaken. In addition, they will be required to ensure that the highest standards of animal welfare guidelines are followed, as set out by the Curlew EIP.

Key aspects of the role:

- Systematic management of predators in the South Leitrim target area where Curlew are known to nest
- Recording of predator control activity in standardized spreadsheets using excel
- Support a baseline and ongoing programme of monitoring predator abundance
- Trial the use of temporary electric fences at nest sites
- Assist with satellite tagging work, including monitoring of tagged birds

- Assist in the implementation of a trail agri-environment scheme for farmers and landowners in predator control and associated training program
- In conjunction with the Project Ecologists, record observations of Curlew behavior and the dynamics of localised predator populations
- Build positive relationships with local communities and stakeholders
- Contribute to associated financial monitoring, data management and report writing
- Effectively manage and maintain project equipment
- Assist in the implementation of programmes of outreach to the local community: Local Action Group and participate in project meetings
- Any other work as deemed appropriate

Applicants must have current licences for all firearms they will use in the management of predators (a Centrefire rifle and shotgun are required for this post; firearms proofed for steel shot are required); personal indemnity insurance and public liability insurance for the use of all firearms

Terms and Conditions

The protection of Curlew their eggs and their un-fledged young from predation is critical for the success of this programme. Accordingly, during the breeding season of the Curlew, your hours of work will be determined by the requirements of systematic predator management that is focused on reducing the impact of nest predation, within the prescribed legal limits as set out in the Organisation of Working Time Act. It is expected that during the breeding season you will work long, often irregular hours with early starts, late finishes and weekend work.

It is expected that the successful candidate will work from home. They should ideally be based within, or near to, the project area.

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 see *jobs section*) or contact recruitment@birdwatchireland.ie

Application forms should be sent to kfinney@birdwatchireland.ie (please put “Curlew EIP Curlew Keeper, South Letrim Bogs” in the subject box) or by post to BirdWatch Ireland Recruitment, Unit 20 Bulford Business Campus, Kilcoole, County Wicklow, Ireland

Closing date for applications: before 5pm on Friday 7th January 2022 Final arrangements will be made known to interviewees.

Funded by



Essential criteria	Desirable criteria
<i>Qualifications</i>	
High level of literacy, numeracy and of professionalism in the delivery of predator control	Third level qualification or equivalent in an environmental or related subject
<i>Experience</i>	
Extensive experience in carrying out predator control on a range of predator species, including an in-depth knowledge the different legal and ethical techniques	Experience surveying breeding Curlew and other breeding waders
A thorough knowledge of the legal requirements relating to the control of predators	Experience of bird survey techniques
Knowledge of best practice in relation to the humane control of predators and animal welfare guidelines	Experience in countryside management and conservation
A good understanding of the Health and Safety requirements of lone working in remote areas (including night work)	Experience in the use of GIS
Good knowledge and understanding of farmland and bog habitats and experience liaising with farmers / landowners	Knowledge of results-based schemes
Demonstrated ability to develop strong collaborative relationships with a wide range of stakeholders with the ability to build effective relationships and partnerships	Organising training events and / or workshops
Excellent record keeping and data management skills, including the use of excel	Excellent verbal and written communication skills
<i>Skills and abilities</i>	
Competent bird identification skills	Proficiency in the use of lead shot
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	
<i>Knowledge</i>	
Knowledge of the factors affecting breeding Curlew in Ireland	Understanding the sensitivities of the Irish farming community and local communities toward bogs
An understanding of agricultural practices and their impacts on breeding waders	Knowledge of Irish farming and the various schemes available to farmers
<i>Disposition/circumstance</i>	
Willing to undertake lone working in accordance with agreed safety procedures	
Ability to work weekends, evenings, nights and early mornings	