



Job Description: Bird Specialist, Acres Donegal CP

Job Title:	Acres Donegal Bird Specialist
Vacancy type:	Fixed Term, 0.8 FTE (4 days/week)
Contract term:	Feb 2023-May 2028, (subject to a Contract review in May 2025).
Location:	County Donegal*
Hours:	4 days (28 hours) per week
Salary:	€30,400 gross for 28 hours per week.
Reporting to:	Assistant Head of Conservation, Species and Land Management

**The post holder will be required to spend a high percentage of their time on sites and attending meetings at offices, in County Donegal. Remaining time can be working from home or the Acres Donegal/BirdWatch Ireland Office in Letterkenny. Please note, where the postholder works from home, BirdWatch Ireland does not provide a working from home supplement.*

Background

Ireland's new agri-environment measures is the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme ('ACRES'). There are two elements to the ACRES scheme:

1. ACRES General offering a range of actions for individual farmers (both targeted and general)
2. ACRES Co-operation Project (CP) which is available to farmers in defined high priority geographical areas who opt to undertake measures, as well as bespoke farm, landscape and river catchment measures. Farmers participating in this option will have the assistance of a Local Cooperation Project Team (CP Team) who will assist with the implementation of the scheme at local level.

In 2022, Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) tendered for the appointment of programme managers to operate the CP Teams in each defined area. BirdWatch Ireland is part of a partnership which successfully tendered for the operation of the local team in the Donegal CP area. The partnership is led by the Inishowen Development Partnership and other partners include Inishowen Farm Innovations, Donegal Local Development Company and Inishowen Rivers Trust.

BirdWatch Ireland is contracted to provide the services of a Bird Specialist on a full time basis. These services will be split between 1 day/week to be undertaken by the Head of Species and Land Management and 4 days/week by the Bird Specialist.

Key duties and responsibilities of the Bird Specialist

The main purpose of the post shall be to provide specialist advice and input on all project requirements for the key farmland bird species in the Donegal CP area. These include breeding waders, corncrake, chough, merlin and hen harrier.

The main duties will include:-

- Contribute to the development of the Local Action Plan for the Donegal CP.
- Development of variations of score cards tailored to the key bird species.
- Identification of appropriate score cards to be allocated to fields to be entered into Acres Co-operation scheme.
- Contribute to the development, screening processes and application of Non Productive Investments (NPIs) and Landscape Actions (LAs).
- Identification of appropriate NPIs and LAs for individual farm plans accepted into the Scheme.
- Setting up a monitoring programme and undertaking surveys for key bird species.
- Providing training to Advisors in use of score cards, NPIs and LAs.
- Assist with scoring of commonages in the CP area and advise on commonage related actions where required.
- Attend DAFM and other CP led meetings to contribute to the development of the ACRES Cooperation Scheme.
- Mapping work required to support implementation of the individual farm plans.
- Contribute to the development of software and database systems.
- Assist with requests from DAFM for reporting, audits etc.

Additional tasks may be allocated from time to time to support the work of the Donegal ACRES Cooperation Project team.

Requirements

- Excellent knowledge of the ecology, trends and threats of the key bird species as they occur in the Donegal CP area.
- Knowledge of the management requirements of these species, particularly related to their occurrence on farmland.
- Direct experience of survey and monitoring of the key bird species.
- Good knowledge of agri-environment schemes in Ireland and direct experience of results based schemes and use of score cards.
- Excellent bird identification skills.
- Experience of providing advice and training to farmers and/or advisors.

-Good knowledge and experience of GIS.

-NFQ Level 6 or higher in Agriculture, Ecology, Countryside Management or equivalent.

You are required to own or have access to a vehicle which is insured for work purposes in order to carry out your duties.

A completed application form should be sent via email to adonaghy@birdwatchireland.ie.

The closing date for applications is midday on Monday 13th February 2023 with interviews soon after.