Role Description

Assistant Volunteer Ornithological Warden Calf of Man

Reporting to: Calf Ornithological Warden and MWT Marine Officer

1. Purpose:

The Assistant Ornithological Warden (AOW) is employed by Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) as part of the warden team managing the Calf of Man Bird Observatory on behalf of Manx National Heritage (MNH), the landowner. The AOW supports the Ornithological Warden (OW) with their duties.

2. Job Role and Responsibilities:

The role is a varied one and will involve helping with various day-to-day responsibilities and duties, for example, routine daily bird census counts and bird ringing, in addition to more specific studies.

3. Specific Roles

3.1 Daily census

Daily census involves covering half of the island every day, alternating between halves, and accurately recording all birds seen and heard. Additions to census may include roost counts, seawatching and visible migration.

3.2 Bird ringing

Ringing activities include (but are not restricted to) daily mist netting, ringing pullus, dazzling, nocturnal mist netting for Storm Petrels and spring trapping. The Calf operates several colour-ringing projects, and part of this involves fieldwork to find and record re-sightings. Giving ringing demonstrations to the public may be required.

3.3 Breeding bird monitoring

This includes territory mapping, monitoring productivity, nest finding and creation of nest record cards. The AOW will be specifically responsible for the monitoring of Eider and either Wheatear or Wren, as well as assisting with all other species where required.

3.4 The Puffin Project

Supporting the MWT Marine Officer in deployment and recovery of decoy Puffins, speakers and camera traps and the start and end of the season. Camera trap footage is to be reviewed fortnightly, and 'Puffin watches' may be undertaken in suitable locations.

3.5 Remote camera monitoring

Assisting with installing and removing the Manx Shearwater live cameras. Several trail cameras are situated around the Calf for bird monitoring – these need reviewing fortnightly. Additional cameras are available for monitoring.

3.6 Additional supporting role

In addition to the above, time may be spent assisting the OW with maintenance and repair of bird equipment, habitat management, contributing to the annual reporting and data entry throughout the year, and supporting the Estate team where necessary. At times it will be necessary for the AOW to work with and manage volunteers.

4. Person Specification:



4.1 Experience

	Essential	Desirable
Bird identification, surveys and recording	✓	
Bird ringing or handling birds	✓	
Working in rough or isolated environments	✓	
Climbing and rope work		✓
Engaging with the public and guiding groups		✓
Nature conservation and land management		✓
Other wildlife surveys		✓

4.2 Knowledge:

	Essential	Desirable
Species-specific surveys and more general ornithological surveys	✓	
Additional wildlife survey methods/techniques		✓
Health and Safety procedures		✓
Relevant qualification in conservation, ecology or environmental protection		✓
Understanding of coastal habitats and ecosystems		✓

4.3 Skills:

	Essential	Desirable
Bird identification skills	✓	
BTO Trainee (or higher) ringing permit*	✓	
Can maintain accurate and detailed field notes	✓	
Good communication and interpersonal skills, including working in a small team and communicating to the public	✓	
IT and computer literate	✓	
ATV and/or tractor driving qualifications		✓
Driving licence		✓
First Aid qualifications		✓
Habitat management		✓
Mental Health First Aid qualification		✓
Other wildlife identification skills		✓
Sure-footed and a head for heights		✓
VHF Radio qualification		✓

4.4 Personal Qualities:

	Essential	Desirable
Able to live and work in remote situations	✓	
Enjoyment of both teamwork and lone working	✓	
Flexible approach to working outside of normal hours, including weekends, nighttime and bank holidays	✓	
Interested in wildlife and conservation	✓	
Physically fit	✓	
Self-motivated, enthusiastic and willing to chip in with anything	✓	

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

5. Details of Placement

5.1 Length of stay:
The period is from early March to the early November (36 weeks).

5.2 Subsistence:
An allowance of £45 per week towards food will be provided and will be paid weekly.
Travel to/from the Calf (from Port St Mary), accommodation and utilities will be provided.

5.3 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. Hours are expected to be 42 per week.

5.4 Location:
The AOW will be based on the Calf of Man, an islet off the south of the Isle of Man, owned by Manx National Heritage. Please note this is a no smoking island.

5.5 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 the requirements of two wardens remaining on the Calf at any one time, to keep the Calf operational.

5.6 Accommodation:
Accommodation is provided in the farmhouse building. This accommodation is basic 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, TV, internet, heating etc but the post holder is responsible for ordering and paying for their own food and personal provisions.

5.7 Training:
Training will be provided, including ATV, first aid, mental health first aid, rope work, tractor driving and VHF radio. PPE will also be provided, where necessary.

5.8 Additional information:
The successful candidate will need a DBS check and a medical examination.