

 **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Bird Husbandry – 100 hours placement

**Why do we need you?**

At WWT, we create and conserve wetlands and save species. We bring awe-inspiring nature up close and let it do the talking.

In this role you will be assisting the Living Collections - Aviculture team in all aspects of caring for the birds in our living collection which includes rare and endangered species of wildfowl from around the world.

Someone with a background in animal care will find this a varied and interesting role within a supportive and experienced team. The role is also an ideal placement for someone looking to gain practical experience in animal care / biology / ecology or conservation science. Please note, you must be over 18 to volunteer in this role.

**Who will be responsible for your role?** Deputy Aviculture Manager and Living Collection Supervisors

**Where will you be based?** WWT Slimbridge Centre

**How much time will it take?** We have 5 placements available for students who need to fulfill their 100 hours (or equivalent) for their college or university course.

* Days start at 8.00am and finish at 4.30pm.
* 2 or 3 days a week attendance is required\* so you can complete your 100 hours within 6 weeks.
* These roles can become flexible when sufficient training has been completed.

\*some exceptions ie. previous experience.

**What will you be doing?**

* Shadowing bird feeding according to best practice guidelines.
* Assisting with bird catches and movements.
* Maintenance of pens and breeding facilities.
* Assisting with the cleaning of Duckery ponds, coops and housing facilities.
* Vegetation work, mowing and clearance.
* An induction in bio-security and best practice care.
* Experience communicating with the visiting public.
* The potential for research experience and censoring techniques.
* The potential for experience in bird habitat and exhibit design.

**Who are we looking for?**

To be effective in this role you will need:

* To be a team player with the ability to work under your own initiative.
* Excellent attention to detail.
* A can-do attitude.
* Experience in animal/bird keeping and practical habitat management.
* An understanding of bird welfare.
* Ability to work independently and self-motivate.
* Good communication skills.
* Tractor, lawn mower and strimmer qualifications desirable.
* Full UK driving license desirable.
* You must be over 18 years old.

**How will you benefit?**

* This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer within an internationally important wetland site in a really hands-on role.
* Suitable uniform is provided to all regular volunteers.
* Discount is available in the cafe and shop on the days of volunteering.
* Free entry to all WWT wetland centres on presentation of your WWT name badge.
* Appropriate training will be provided.
* A review after the first week to ensure the role is right for you.
* A suitable reference to help you apply for jobs.

**General notes:**

To make an effective contribution, we are asking you to be available for at least six weeks. Longer placements may be available if you would like to stay with us for a longer time period. This position may require work during evenings, weekends and public holidays to ensure objectives are met. The exact hours you are able to contribute will be discussed prior to placement.

This position is entirely voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer placement is not intended to create a legally binding contract between us and any agreement may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

**How to Apply:**

Full details of this role and an online application form can be found at [www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer). If you have any problems locating the information or filling out the application form please email volunteering@wwt.org.uk.

Please complete the application form by 16th May 2025. After this date successful applicants will be asked to come to the centre for an informal interview to find out more about the role and discuss availability after which suitable candidates will be offered placements.

**Date raised:**  March 2017 **Date Reviewed**: April 2025