



## **CURLEW EIP JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Post Title:</b>	Ecological Advisor for the conservation of breeding Curlew South Leitrim
<b>Employer:</b>	BirdWatch Ireland
<b>Department:</b>	Conservation
<b>Main place of work:</b>	South Leitrim (i.e. around Drumod)
<b>Immediate Line Manager:</b>	Curlew EIP Project Manager
<b>Duration:</b>	Sept. 2020 –Sept 2021, 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 Ecological Advisor, South Leitrim Bogs.

### **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 (EIP) fund. It is trialing new and innovative programmes to improve breeding outcomes in these areas, including mechanisms for the management of predation risk and improvement in nest outcomes, capital works to improve habitats; and a results-based measure for breeding 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 implementation and administration of project scheme options and manage budgets. They will liaise with and provide advice and training to participating farmers on managing their land for breeding Curlew. They will be responsible for line managing the Seasonal Ecologist in the South Lough Corrib project area.

### **Requirements**

#### *Essential*

- A degree in a relevant scientific discipline, e.g., ecology, zoology, environmental science or similar.
- At least three years' experience of working on ecological and/or agricultural projects.
- At least two years' experience of carrying out bird surveys.
- Understanding of breeding wader ecology, and the factors affecting breeding Curlew in Ireland
- Proven experience of writing scientific reports, post degree level, to include data collation and analysis.
- Proven experienced in the use of GIS software and management of GIS databases, post degree level.
- Proven experience liaising with farmers/landowners.
- Proven experience of managing staff.
- A full driving license and access to own transport.

### *Desirable*

- Experience of carrying out breeding wader surveys.
- Knowledge of Irish farming and the various schemes available to farmers, including DFAM support payments and systems
- Familiarity with agricultural and bog habitat types.
- An understanding of agricultural practices and their impacts on breeding waders.

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

- Survey and monitor breeding Curlew populations and monitor nest sites for breeding outcomes
- Determine ownership and land management on target sites
- Assist in budgetary analysis and shortlisting of candidates for scheme entry, including prioritisation and site assessments.
- Assist in the implementation, administration and reviews of the project scheme(s).
- Undertake field scoring assessments against the selected indicators; provide guidance and training on how scores may be improved.
- Liaise with and provide advice to farmers participating in the results-based measures and landowners undertaking capital works.
- Lead on the collation, analysis and write up of the project data for annual reports and the end of Project Report.
- Maintain GIS databases.
- In conjunction with the predator control operative, monitor predator populations on established transects.
- Where possible, determine areas for erection of temporary electric predator exclusion fence around nests sites.
- Assist with the assessment of stakeholder attitudes to the schemes and 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 by the Project Manager/Operational Group.

The successful candidate will be expected to work in close cooperation with the Project Manager (based in Lough Corrib), and the Predator Control Keeper in South Leitrim to achieve the overall conservation objectives of the project. They will also be required to line manage the season ecologist in Lough Corrib.

### **Terms and Conditions**

Your normal working hours are 09.00 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00 Monday to Friday. Some flexibility in working outside of these normal working hours will sometimes be required, especially during key periods such as the Curlew breeding season. 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.

It is expected that the successful candidate will work from home, as the main project office is based near Lough Corrib.

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, South Letrim Bogs” 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 3 September 2020. It is anticipated that interviews will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September or Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in Banagher, Co. Offaly. Anticipated start date is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 or Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

#### Project Partners



#### Funded by

