



Laurie Campbell

## Upland Research Unit, Drumochter, Inverness-shire Student Placement 2012/2013

### Background

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is an independent wildlife conservation charity. Its 60 scientists carry out research into game, associated species and habitats, from its HQ at Fordingbridge, Hampshire and at out-stations throughout the country. The Trust's main areas of interest encompass farmland, moorland, woodland and river management for game and other wildlife.

### The Placement

The Trust's Field Station at Drumochter is the base for research into a wide range of upland species and issues, with a particular reference to those that are specific to Scotland. Located near Dalwhinnie in Inverness-shire, the field station is surrounded by upland moorland and woodland habitats offering a wide range of research opportunities. Close contacts are maintained with the local estates so that much of the work carried out has a strong practical benefit to upland managers. As well as this local resource, monitoring of grouse is carried out across the Scottish uplands on a number of long-term study sites.

In 2012/2013 a position is available for a year placement student with an interest in upland research and management issues to join the research team at Drumochter and take part in a wide range of projects. The position will be in support of core grouse monitoring, tick research and woodland grouse research. This is likely to involve radio-tracking, habitat and bird surveys as well as indoor tasks such as data entry and strongyle worm counts. There will also be ample opportunities to develop aspects of research of particular interest by carrying out a personal research project with co-supervision from base staff. Training will be given in all aspects of fieldwork and data entry into databases.

Students should be proficient in Microsoft office software (Word, Excel, etc.). Previous experience in ornithological and habitat survey skills would be an advantage. A clean driving license is essential and access to a personal vehicle is advisable given the remote nature of the field station. Free accommodation at the field station plus a stipend of £89/week will be provided. The candidate should be fit and capable of working alone in mountainous areas. Some work with and care of pointing dogs will be a requirement. This is a great opportunity for anyone wishing to pursue a career in field-based ecology and conservation.

### Contact:

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