

Wetland Research

Student Placement 2019-2020

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 Wetland team undertakes research primarily on woodcock, lapwings and other breeding waders, but also on issues relating to the habitats they utilize. The research ranges from fundamental ecology to investigating solutions to specific conservation issues. For example, current studies range from assessing woodcock populations and studying woodcock migration to testing ways of reducing predation on breeding lapwings on wet grassland and researching options to improve lapwing chick survival on arable land.

The work of the Wetland team involves a combination of intensive fieldwork, typically surveying birds and habitats, catching and radio-tracking individuals, and laboratory work, data handling, analysis and reporting. Some studies are undertaken across many sites and fieldwork may involve regular travel. You would be part of a team including field assistants, PhD students and MSc students.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, motivated individual to be involved in projects on woodcock and lapwings. Winter fieldwork will involve studying woodcock foraging behaviour and there will be opportunities to assist with capture and tagging of birds. There will be a night-time component to this fieldwork. During spring and summer, fieldwork will involve surveying lapwings and redshank for a large-scale wader recovery project and will include finding nests and monitoring broods, assessing predator abundance and recording vegetation.

You will gain instruction and experience in survey methods, bird handling, radio-telemetry, nest finding, camera trapping, study design, database management, data analysis and GIS. There will be the opportunity to experience the work of other departments while based at the Trust.

We can provide accommodation at Fordingbridge, a small remuneration package (currently £100 per week) plus expenses and a vehicle where required for work. To express interest please email a CV with covering letter by the 7th January 2019. Interviews will be held in January/February 2019.

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