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| **Title** | Species Protection Officer and Volunteer Reserves Assistant  |
| **Location**  | Loch of the Lowes, Dunkeld |
| **Line Manager** | Perthshire Ranger |

**Overall Purpose of the Job**

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| **Scotland’s leading nature conservation charity is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to undertake a dual role of Reserves Assistant and Species Protection Officer (SPO).** The first 8-weeks of the role, candidates will focus on providing an ‘Osprey Watch’ nest protection programme based at Loch of the Lowes, this will be under a 17.5 hours temporary employment contract for the duration of 8-weeks. The second part of the role will comprise mainly of voluntary outdoor practical conservation work and invasive species control on the other Perthshire reserves. Successful candidates will receive free accommodation for the full duration of this dual role and invaluable training and experiences in both aspects of the role.  |

**Roles and Responsibilities**

-Monitor and record breeding ospreys’ behaviour

- Provide round the clock ‘Osprey Watch’ protection of resident ospreys, their nest and

 eggs during the critical part of the breeding season

- Monitor additional webcams for beaver activity and other wildlife footage

- Analyse osprey observations and statistics to provide an end of season osprey report

- Run public events for members of the public, including regular ‘Beaver Watch’ evenings

- Carry out a range of practical conservation tasks with particular focus on controlling invasive

 and non-native species
- Contribute to ongoing species records by undertaking flora and fauna surveys

- Undertake a personal project that contributes to the management plan of one of the reserves

**Main Duties**

**During ‘Osprey Watch’**

\* Monitor security cameras and webcam to watch for potential disturbance events. Half of the

 shift pattern will comprise of night shifts.

\* In the event of a disturbance to the breeding ospreys and where it is deemed safe to do so,

 Rangers may approach members of the public to discuss their actions, the Scottish Outdoor

 Access Code and legislation pertaining to protected Schedule 1 birds.

\* Liaise with Wildlife Crime officer as appropriate.

\* Patrol reserve on a regular basis.

\* Record and analyse feeding times, parent changeovers and movement of other ospreys on the

 reserve.

\* Liaise with local volunteers to enable smooth change overs and ensure a 24-hour protection is

 maintained.

\* Report regularly to line manager and other staff during shift change overs.

\* Monitor and edit footage from other webcams and camera traps.

\* Create interesting social media and blog posts about the osprey breeding season.

\* Co-create an end of season Osprey Report.

 **Out with ‘Osprey Watch’ (Voluntary)**

\* Support the Ranger and Visitor Centre staff to run a variety of public engagement events and

 talks, including weekly ‘Beaver Watch’ evenings.

\* Control invasive and non-native species; monitoring mink traps, pulling Himalayan Balsam,

 knocking back encroaching bracken, thinning sycamore and digging lupin.

\* Maintain reserve infrastructure such as paths, drains and fences and ensure safe public

 access.

\* Undertake informal and formal species monitoring and surveying.

\* Provide additional practical support to the ‘Heart of Scotland Partnership’.

**Training and Support**

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| During the voluntary section of this post individuals will be given the opportunity to gain experience in the following:\* Species ID and a range of survey and monitoring techniques\* A range of practical conservation skills\* Undertake a personal monitoring project which contributes to the management of the reserve\* Where possible undertake LANTRA brushcutter training and Emergency Outdoor First Aid\* Gain experience in carrying out public eventsIndividuals will also receive;\* Free accommodation in an on-site, loch side, wooden eco-bothy\* Free uniform and additional clothing allowance |

**Personal Specification**

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| **Attributes, Skills, Knowledge and Experience** |
| * Interest and passion in nature conservation
* Good knowledge of natural history, species ID and surveying skills
* Experience of bird monitoring or species protection work beneficial
* Experience of practical conservation work useful
* Reasonable standard of physical fitness and a willingness to undertake physically hard work in changeable weather conditions and challenging terrain
* Willingness to live in shared accommodation with colleagues
* Ability to work openly and cooperatively as part of a small team
* Positive and flexible approach to work
* High level of self-motivation, personal responsibility and organisational skills
* Ability to work unsociable hours, including nightshifts
* Experience working with volunteers
* Ability to communicate with the public in an engaging manner
* Experience of delivering public events
* Confident presentation and public speaking skills
* Competent record keeping
* Basic computer literacy, including use of spreadsheets
* Experience of writing social media posts, blogs and editing camera footage of benefit
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| **Special Competencies:** |
| * Driving License an advantage
* First Aid Qualification an advantage
* Flexible attitude
* Able to work and live closely with colleagues
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**Please note this post is dependent on the return of breeding ospreys. Strict Covid-19 procedures will be in place, particularly with regard to bothy accommodation**