

Conservation Intern – European Species Programme

Background

BirdLife International is the official IUCN Red List authority on birds and provides data on population estimates, trends and conservation status of all (c. 11,000) bird species in the world. The European and Central Asian Division of BirdLife International is responsible for collating and managing the data on all (c. 550) European species. It coordinates and supports a network of 49 independent national Member organisations (Partners) in 48 countries, in delivering priority conservation objectives for birds and biodiversity across the region. Current priorities include ensuring a full implementation of the EU environmental legislation; the designation and management of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, addressing threats from agriculture, illegal killing, energy and other infrastructure, as well as reducing bycatch in fisheries.

After delivering the European Red List of Birds in spring 2021, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia Division will be focusing on further analyses of the results of this work and their best use in the conservation of European birds. From identifying needs for habitat restoration for particular species, through contributing to the development of effective and sustainable forestry or agriculture practices, to collaborative research on the impact of climate change on species, BirdLife will aim to put the best available data into best conservation policy and action across Europe. The work will also ensure that BirdLife's European Species Programme continues to address the highest conservation priorities, whilst informing and supporting the European Partnership, the Preventing Extinctions Programme, and the wider community.

The intern would work with the BirdLife European Species Conservation Team based in Cambridge and will help support the contribution of BirdLife to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030. Precise details of projects and tasks would depend on the timing, and on the candidates' skills and interests. The intern will also benefit from working with BirdLife's Global Red List Team, and BirdLife's European Policy and Communication Teams.

Learning objectives

- Learn about BirdLife's strategy, structure, operating procedures, culture and values.
- Work with BirdLife's internationally renowned team, with colleagues and experts across Europe, and help set the agenda for European bird conservation for the coming decade. Understand the working relationships and dependencies between colleagues working in different departments.
- Become familiar with BirdLife's Conservation Team work (both at European and Global level), in particular following up on the results of the latest European Red List of Birds update and setting up conservation priorities at regional (European) level.
- Gain practical knowledge in using best available data about birds, their population status and trends, for policy work and conservation.
- Gain in depth knowledge of European bird species (e.g. conservation status, distribution, abundance, ecology and threats).
- Become familiar with international conservation issues and legal frameworks, in particular the EU Birds Directive, and international legal frameworks (e.g. CMS, AEW, Bern Convention).

- Gain experience of working in an environment where priorities are often determined by projects, and strengthen time management skills in order to ensure that tasks are delivered to deadlines.
- Gain experience of synthesising information from scientific literature.
- Develop and strengthen research, writing and teamwork skills.

Requirements and qualifications

- Studying for a first degree in ecology, biology, zoology, environmental science or similar.
- Interested in and committed to bird conservation, with a good general knowledge of European birds and their main threats across Europe.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to work independently, but also remotely and as part of a team.