

Title	Wildlife Protection Officer (WPO)
Based	Loch of the Lowes, Dunkeld
Line Manager	Perthshire Ranger

Overall Purpose of the Job

To support and assist the Perthshire Ranger in providing osprey nest and other species protection at the Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve.

You will be expected to;

- Monitor and record breeding ospreys' behaviour
- Provide protection for the resident ospreys and other species, including their nest, eggs and young during the critical part of the breeding season.
- Engage with members of the public, both in the hides and on regular patrols around the reserve.
- Intervene and take appropriate action in incidents of disturbance
- Work closely with Visitor Centre staff and volunteers
- Monitor additional webcams for beaver activity and other wildlife footage
- Produce an end of season summary report

Main Duties

- * Monitor the nest from the hides, security cameras and webcam to watch for potential disturbance events.
- * Patrol reserve on a regular basis.
- * In the event of disturbance to ospreys and other wildlife, WPOs may be required to talk to members of the public to discuss their actions and raise awareness regarding the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and legislation pertaining to protected species.
- * Liaise with Wildlife Crime officer and local police as appropriate.
- * Liaise, support and work with local volunteers to ensure protection is maintained.
- * Report regularly to line manager and other staff during shift change-overs.
- * Review osprey webcams for incidents and interesting footage.
- * Provide shift summary to members of the Visitor Centre and Communications Team.
- * Upload observed osprey behavior into data spreadsheet.
- * Co-create an end of season summary report.

Training & Support

- * Gain experience using webcam and security camera software

Individuals will receive;

- * Free accommodation in an on-site, loch side, wooden eco-booth
- * Free uniform for the duration of employment

Key Internal & External Contacts

- Perthshire Ranger
- Reserves Manager – North East
- Visitor Centre Assistant Manager, staff and volunteers
- Osprey Watch volunteers
- PR and Digital Communications team
- Perth & Kinross Visitor Rangers
- Police Scotland – Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer
- Other conservation bodies; NatureScot, RSPB Scotland
- Press/Media

Personal Specification

Attributes, Skills, Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• Reasonable standard of physical fitness and resilience to undertake shifts in the hide in cold conditions• Ability to work unsociable hours• Willingness to live in shared accommodation with colleagues and contribute to a positive living environment• Ability to work both independently and cooperatively as part of a small team• Positive and flexible approach to work• High level of self-motivation, personal responsibility and organisational skills• Experience working with volunteers• Ability to communicate with the public in an approachable (and where required) calm manner• Experience of conflict resolution• Understanding of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code• Confident presentation and public speaking skills
Special Competencies:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driving License highly desirable• First Aid Qualification an advantage• Flexible attitude• Able to work and live closely with colleagues

Please note this post is dependent on the return of breeding ospreys. Covid-19 precautions will be applied as appropriate, particularly with regards to the bothy accommodation.

Date	November 2024
Author	Sara Rasmussen
Position	Perthshire Ranger