

Volunteer shorebird fieldwork opportunity in Maio, Cape Verde, autumn 2020

Description: We are looking for an enthusiastic volunteer field biologist to help with monitoring, capturing and collection of behavioural data of two small ground-nesting shorebird species, the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and the Cream-Coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*). Fieldwork is taking place in on the island of Maio, Cape Verde during autumn (1st September – 30th November 2020). Accommodation costs will be covered, but the volunteer is expected to pay for his/her own expenses and transport costs to and back from Maio.

The work of the selected candidate will be supported by the international ÉLVONAL Shorebird Science project (www.elvonalshorebirds.com), the University of Bath (UK) and the Maio Biodiversity Foundation (Cape Verde).



Duties: Include walking through saltmarsh/grassland/semi-desert areas on foot or in a mobile hide searching for nests and re-sighting individuals with binoculars and scope. When nests are found, hatch date is estimated by floating the eggs, then both parents are caught on the nest with funnel traps and are colour-ringed and measured. Behavioural observations of courtship and brood care are also recorded. The volunteer will be part of the bird team of the local NGO Maio Biodiversity Foundation.

Knowledge/skills required: Applicants should have a strong interest in ornithology, ecology and conservation. Experience with handling birds and knowledge of Portuguese/Spanish would be advantageous but are not a must. Candidates must have the ability to work long hours independently in tropical conditions while maintaining a positive and enthusiastic attitude. Colour vision and the ability to walk for long distances on uneven terrain are a must. A manual driver's license is required. Willingness to explore a new culture, live in a remote location, eat local cuisine and adapt to the local lifestyle is expected. Volunteers must be available for the full fieldwork period between the 1st September and the 30th November 2020.

Skills and training offered: Use of binoculars and scope. Re-sighting colour-ringed birds, finding nests, taking nest measurements, trapping adult and juvenile birds, colour-ringing adults and juveniles, taking morphometric measurements and taking blood samples. Taking behavioural observations on courtship and parental care. Candidates will be familiarised with standardised data collection. If the candidate is inexperienced in the aforementioned techniques but shows strong enthusiasm and interest in ornithology, we will seriously consider the application and provide the necessary training in the field.

To apply: Interested candidates should contact Noémie Engel (nce25@bath.ac.uk) by sending a one page motivation letter and their CV of max. 3 pages highlighting relevant experience and mentioning referees. Do not hesitate contacting Noémie if you have any further questions about this position.

Application deadline: 30 April 2020