



ACN 149 124 774; ABN 75 149 124 774

Australasian Wader Studies Group

A special interest group of BirdLife Australia

Volunteer Role Description

NWA Shorebird and Tern Expedition 2022.

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| <p>Organisation Overview</p> <p>The AWSG is a leading conservation organisation focusing on shorebirds and terns in the East-Asian Australasian Flyway. Established in 1981 as a special interest group of BirdLife Australia the group has over 300 members throughout the world.</p> <p>We recognise that many areas which we conduct field work programs hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Aboriginal people. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, Elders past and present the ancestors and their spirits of the land.</p> <p>As a volunteer group we promote a positive and interactive working environment where team members collectively strive for the groups ongoing success. We believe in nurturing diversity and equal opportunities to ensure current and future success.</p> <p>BirdLife Australia is an Australian Public Company. The company has charitable status and is Not-for-Profit. AWSG field work is self-funding with participants meeting costs. AWSG also seek funding to support additional research costs such as satellite transmitters and download charges.</p> | <p>BIRDLIFE VISION Native birds are protected, valued and enjoyed by all Australians</p> <p>AWSG MISSION STATEMENT To ensure the future of waders and their habitats in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway</p> <p>AWSG OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor shorebird populations, feeding ecology and their migration, at local, national and international levels by a program that includes counting, leg banding and colour flagging. • Instigate and encourage other scientific studies of shorebirds such as feeding and breeding studies. • Communicate the results of these studies to a wide audience through the journal Stilt, the newsletter Tattler, other journals, the internet, the media, conferences and lectures. • Formulate and promote policies for the conservation of shorebirds and their habitat, and to make available information to local and national governmental conservation bodies and organisations to encourage and assist them in pursuing this objective. • Promote wetland conservation and assist in the nomination of important sites for listing under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). |
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| <p>Core Values</p> <p>Passion – we bring people together around a love of nature</p> <p>Excellence – Science and knowledge is the centre of everything we do</p> <p>Leadership – We empower and inspire people to lead with courage and purpose</p> <p>Collaboration – We embrace diversity and work in partnership with mutual respect</p> <p>Integrity – Our success is based on experience, honesty, trust and fairness</p> <p>Impact – We think globally, lead nationally and act locally.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote the involvement of a large band of amateurs, as well as professionals, to achieve these objectives. • Encourage and assist similar programs throughout the Asia Pacific region. <p>CODE OF CONDUCT</p> <p>BirdLife Australian (including AWSG) volunteers are responsible for the success of the group. The AWSG aims to create an environment in which volunteers can reach their full potential.</p> <p>To achieve our success, we ask volunteers to promote our culture through conduct which supports our environment and one another.</p> <p>We achieve this through volunteers upholding the mission and objectives of our group and adhering to BirdLife Australia’s policies and procedures relevant to volunteers which are available at:</p> <p>https://birdlife.org.au/who-we-are/our-organisation/occupational-health-and-safety</p> |
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| ROLE DISCRIPTION | Volunteer field assistant will play an important role in assisting the AWSG research programs, including the capture, banding, leg-flag sighting and monitoring of shorebirds and terns. These programs are important to help determine population trends, distributions, health and condition. |
| WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING? | <p>As a volunteer you will:</p> <p>Assist with equipment maintenance</p> <p>Assist with deploying and retrieving equipment associated with bird capture</p> <p>Assist with bird capture, extraction, banding and processing</p> <p>Assist with monitoring bird welfare during capture and restraint</p> <p>Accurately record data</p> <p>Assist with other survey techniques e.g. counts, flag or colour band sightings</p> <p>Assist with research programs such as GPS or satellite tracking</p> <p>Assist with data entry into the AWSG shorebird and tern database</p> <p>Listen to and take direction from expedition and team leaders</p> <p>Where necessary drive vehicles (full Australian Driver’s License only)</p> <p>Contribute to team meetings and field work evaluation feedback</p> |
| WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR? | <p>People who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified – Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme – minimum A or R class Basic Capture Methods license or willingness to obtain a “trainee permit” (C class). • Have basic bird handling experience or other relevant skills |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can demonstrate a history of collaborative working in the field • Team players • Proactive and have initiative • Reliable and punctual • Interested and passionate about shorebird and tern conservation • Willing to learn • Willingness to undertake shared group tasks such as cooking, grocery purchase, laundry, shopping on behalf of the group when on field trips. • Computer – literate (email, internet) – essential. |
| COMMITMENT | <p>Suitable Volunteers are likely to be required for a three-week period per annum, particularly volunteers who have previous experience catching shorebirds and terns in the tropics.</p> <p>We are looking for people that can commit to a specified number of days – at least half of each annual field work period.</p> <p>Field work “days” will be variable and last up to 12 hours per day.</p> <p>Cannon netting is an all-day activity taking up to 12 hours and is conducted on open sandy beaches – shade is provided.</p> <p>Mist netting occurs at night and takes up to 5 hours per session and is conducted on wetlands, grasslands, or sandy beaches.</p> <p>Up to 10 single day field events- cannon netting, are also held in Broome WA during September to November on suitable tides.</p> |
| BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING | <p>Volunteers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have an opportunity to be involved in field work contributing to the conservation of shorebirds and terns Be part of a friendly team Receive on-the-job training and opportunity to learn new skills and apply their learnings in a meaningful way |
| TRAINING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal ethics induction course On-the-job training Field manual provided |
| LOCATIONS | North-west Western Australia. |
| REQUIREMENTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers must complete an ethics induction. • Volunteers must have an Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme C class license (minimum), we can help you apply. • Volunteers should commit to a specified number of days per field work expedition and at remote locations stay for the whole of time at that location e.g. Anna Plains Station. • Wear appropriate clothing as outlined in the field work advice. • Be 18 years of age. • Have effective communications skills. • Be able to undertake the physical aspects of the work, including working and camping in tropical heat, sitting for long periods of time, walking short distances – up to 100m, cooking, cleaning and manual handling, getting in and out of cars, good eyesight and hearing. If you have a disability relating to the physical |

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| | <p>aspects of the field work, we would like to discuss with you before you make an application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No animal allergies (at field locations you will encounter birds, cattle, camels, other domestic animals and wildlife). • Flexible in starting and finishing times • The ability to follow instructions provided by team leaders. • Please note that we will be working at remote sites and this may impact on the availability of food, medical and other services. • Medical insurance suitable for medical evacuation from remote areas. |
| SELECTION PROCESS AWSG NWA 2022 | <p>Please apply via email. Please provide a “bird research” resume and copies of your bird banding license.</p> <p>Applications will be individually assessed, and eligible volunteers will be contacted by an Expedition Team Leader.</p> <p>Volunteers with Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, A class cannon net or A class mist net licences an advantage.</p> <p>Volunteers with previous experience catching shorebirds and terns in the tropics will be given priority.</p> <p>First aid qualification an advantage.</p> |

VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED TO:

Agree to uphold BirdLife Australia’s and AWSG mission, vision, and values.

Behave in ways consistent with BirdLife Australia Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures.

Agree to work in a manner that is safe to themselves, other volunteers, and visitors.

Inform BirdLife Australia (AWSG) of any pre-existing medical conditions, injury or illness or changes to their physical or mental health that may affect their ability to undertake their role as a volunteer.

Agree to undertake tasks as specified in this Volunteer Position Description

Participate in compulsory ethics induction and read OHS material and manuals supplied by the AWSG.

Have medical insurance suitable for remote area evacuation.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND CONDITIONS:

Will require working in the “wet” season in N.W. Australia with day temperatures reaching 32-35°C and night temperatures of around 25°C. Heavy thundery showers occur almost daily in February, and there can even be a cyclone (as in February 2018). Humidity may also be very high.

Will require working outdoors with birds.

Will require the use of cleaning products such as detergents and sanitising agents.

While working outdoors you need to be able to undertake the physical aspects of the work, including sitting for long periods of time in a vehicle or on a stool, walking in wetlands -slippery and manual handling, walking on uneven surfaces, getting in and out of cars. If you have allergies or a disability relating to the physical aspects and risks of the field work, we would like to discuss with you before you make an application.

May require working at all times of day and night.

Camping

Everyone needs to bring sleeping equipment, a tent or mosquito net with cover, and a towel. A light sleeping bag or even just a cotton sleeping bag liner may be sufficient. Foam rubber or an inflatable mattress, plus pillow.

It may be very humid and can rain **very heavily with strong winds** at this time of year - tropical downpours from thunderstorms, so you would need a good quality, rain-proof tent.

It is strongly suggested you bring a waterproof bag/case to put your personal items such as bird books, note pads, cameras, computers, mobile phones in while camping as there is a risk of thunderstorms bringing strong winds and rain.

A torch should always be used when walking around at night due to the presence of snakes, scorpions and centipedes that hunt at night (other small animals not people!). A head-torch is useful for mist-netting at night.

Health:

The domestic water is clean and potable.

Mosquitos and sandflies can be a problem, especially after spring tidal series. Repellents ("Rid" is the most popular) can be purchased in Broome.

Because we visit farmland it is wise to ensure that your anti-tetanus protection is current before leaving home.

The mosquito borne Ross River Fever virus occurs throughout Australia - and preventative injections are not available - but its incidence is low. Long sleeved shirts and trousers should be worn in the early evenings and mornings and when frequenting areas such as the mangroves to avoid being bitten. Mosquito repellent with DEET should be worn. Prevention measures are highly recommended.

Crocodiles have been seen at the Crab Creek mangroves, so do not go bird watching alone at this location.

You are strongly advised not to walk around bare foot on any grassed or irrigated areas due to the potential presence of hookworm (parasite). Always use footwear when outside – flip-flops or thongs or other light footwear will do for casual wear.

Due to working in close proximity in a remote area with vulnerable persons complete COVID-19 vaccination is preferred.