

Vulture Conservation Foundation – Job Specification-Description:

Bearded vulture captive breeding assistant

Job Title

Part-time (50%) bearded vulture captive breeding assistant, Vallcalent, Spain

Overall purpose of the job

To support the VCF bearded vulture captive breeding manager on all tasks

Reporting to

VCF bearded vulture captive breeding manager

Background

The wildlife rehabilitation center Vallcalent is one of the five rehabilitation stations from the Generalitat of Catalonia, located in the outskirts of Lleida, and includes two departments:

1. Wildlife Rehabilitation Department, which includes the Hospital and the rehabilitation facilities
2. Project Department, which includes different captive breeding units: the barn owl, the bearded vulture, and the lesser grey shrike

The bearded vulture unit occupies a 0.5 hectare area, and includes 6 aviaries. Additionally 2 other aviaries inside the Rehab area are destined for the bearded vulture.

The Vallcalent bearded vulture unit is an integral part of the bearded vulture EEP (Endangered Species Programme), managed by the VCF, for conservation purposes – to produce young for reintroduction projects.

A main objective of this unit is to create a Pyrenean genetic reserve and to preserve the genetic variability in the bearded vulture breeding stock. Currently it houses 11 birds, with very valuable blood-lines from the Pyrenees from Crete and mainland Greece (a population which has disappeared). Consequently the Vallcalent bearded vulture unit has a significant genetic diversity, and is important for the bearded vulture reintroduction projects.

Furthermore the Vallcalent bearded vulture unit has an out-standing expertise to house and breed behaviourally-difficult birds which have not reproduced in other institutions.

Summarizing, the goals of the bearded vulture captive breeding Unit from Vallcalent are:

- Create a Pyrenean genetic reserve
- Reproduce behaviourally-difficult birds
- Reproduce founder birds
- Use imprinted birds as foster parents
- Adoptions of hatchlings

Furthermore the manager of the Vallcalent bearded vulture unit co-co-ordinates also the bearded vulture EEP.

Main duties & responsibilities

Outside of the breeding season, data management and the maintenance and cleaning of the aviaries are the most important tasks. During the breeding season (November-May) tasks related with bird monitoring, artificial incubation and chick rearing are more relevant.

- Daily bird monitoring, including through video camera system and recordings
- Daily food preparation and storage
- General maintenance and cleaning
- Reconstruction of the nests (includes preparation of nest material: e.g. wool wash)
- Management of vegetation cover inside and outside the facilities
- Monitoring evolution of pair bonding and breeding
- Capturing of birds if needed (e.g. by appearing strong fights)
- Collection and storage of all monitoring data
- Organizing transfer of birds including administrative tasks (CITES, Government authorizations, TRACES)
- Monitoring artificial incubation (egg control, thermal shock, adapt incubation parameters in relation egg/embryo evolution, etc.)
- Rearing of chicks
- Assist with the preparation of all the captive breeding technical guidelines and documents
- Assist with the production of annual reports
- Assist with the contact with all the Zoos and centres in the network
- Substitute the captive breeding manager when he is on holiday or travelling

Education - Skills - Experience required

- ✓ University degree level general education
- ✓ At least 3 years professional experience on captive breeding, or handling of animals
- ✓ A strong motivation to work with animals and contribute to vulture conservation
- ✓ Previous experience with vultures preferred
- ✓ Good organizational and planning skills, ability to determine and set work priorities, organise activities and an ability to adhere to deadlines
- ✓ Fluency in Spanish and English
- ✓ Able to travel 1-2 times a year

Job Location

Vallcalent centre, Lleida, Spain

Salary and benefits

1400-1500€ monthly/Gross. Tax and social contributions should then be discounted.
Travel expenses also covered.

Documents requested

CV plus cover letter, to be sent by the 18th April to recruitment@4vultures.org in one single pdf file.