



It's Time.



Volunteering Brochure

for BirdLife Malta





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Introduction

Join our organisation and help make a difference for birds and their habitats! As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to connect with other bird enthusiasts, learn about avian biology and conservation, and participate in meaningful conservation efforts. From conducting bird surveys and monitoring nests to leading educational walks and participating in habitat restoration projects, there are numerous ways to get involved and make a positive impact. Whether you're a seasoned birder or simply have a passion for nature, we welcome your help in our mission to protect and preserve birds and their habitats for future generations. Sign up to volunteer today and be a part of something truly meaningful!

Our organisation is dedicated to protecting and preserving birds and their habitats, and we're always looking for passionate and enthusiastic volunteers to join us. Volunteering with us is a rewarding and educational experience that can make a real difference in the lives of birds. In this brochure, you'll learn about the various volunteering opportunities and how you can help make a positive impact.

Volunteers are essential to our organisation because of their potential, innovative ideas and strengthening their education and interest to protect the environment of utmost importance, so that they can spread this knowledge to others.

We really need You!



Photo: M. V. Gauci

The importance of cooperation with volunteers

Cooperation with volunteers is crucial to the success of our organisation. By working together, we can achieve much more than any one individual or group could on its own. Our volunteers bring a diverse range of skills, knowledge, and experiences, and by combining these strengths, we can tackle important conservation challenges.

Volunteers are people with very different experience, qualifications, and competences, who share the desire to expand their skills and knowledge, as well as the willingness to work in an organization for nature protection. The skills and experience of people performing voluntary work significantly increase the quality and scope of tasks performed by the organisation. This applies to both, the work of volunteer qualified bird watchers and nature enthusiasts. The involvement of volunteers allows for closer connection with local groups and better understanding of local environmental issues. This is crucial in raising awareness of the protection needs of birds and their habitats, including the implementation of national and international campaigns for nature conservation. Volunteers can take part in every possible aspect of its activities - from research on birds, through works in the reserves, education of children

and adults, communication and media, international cooperation and much more. Volunteering activities inspire the entire team, often becoming the driving force behind the tasks undertaken by the organisation.

The organisation values the contributions of all its volunteers, regardless of their experience level, and recognizes the value of their unique perspectives and skills. The diversity of volunteers leads to a rich exchange of ideas and viewpoints. By working together, volunteers are inspired to make a difference and to contribute to the conservation of birds and their habitats. Whether you're an experienced ornithologist or just starting out, your engagement and support are vital to the success of the organisation's mission.

“No one will protect what they don't care about and no one will care about what they have never experienced”.

- Sir David Attenborough

What?

Volunteering is an opportunity to give back to nature and support the conservation of birds and their habitats.

Why?

Not only will you be making a positive impact, but you'll also gain valuable experience and knowledge in the field of ornithology, conservation and public engagement. You'll have the chance to work with a dedicated team of experts and enthusiasts and make new connections and friends.

How?

To get involved, simply fill out an application. You'll then be matched with projects and activities that suit your skills and interests. Whether it's through conducting field studies, helping with bird conservation efforts, or promoting the organization's mission, your time and skills will make a meaningful difference. Join us in our mission to protect and preserve birds and their habitats for future generations!

What?
Why?
How?

Volunteering is not just about supporting bird conservation efforts, but also about sharing the knowledge, admiration, and passion for birds and their habitats with others. The goal of volunteering is to raise awareness about the importance of preserving biodiversity and the crucial role that bird habitats play in maintaining a healthy and balanced ecosystem. By sharing your experiences, information, and enthusiasm with others, you can help to inspire and educate future generations. By working together to protect and preserve bird habitats, we can ensure that their ecosystems remain a vital part of the planet.

*Join us today and help us save
birds and their habitats
(and also have fun with us!)*

Who are the volunteers?



Photo: M. Gelir

Volunteers are individuals who dedicate their time and skills to support the organisation's mission and goals.

They come from diverse backgrounds, with varying levels of expertise and experience, but are united by their passion for birds and their habitats. They bring energy, creativity, and enthusiasm to the organisation and are valued members of the team. Without volunteers our organisation would not be able to carry out their important work, and the impact of their efforts would be greatly reduced.

You can choose which field you want to be engaged in, or you can take part in both - it all depends on your interests:

1. Fieldwork Volunteers

They actively engage in field studies that focus on birds and their habitats.

2. Volunteers Supporters

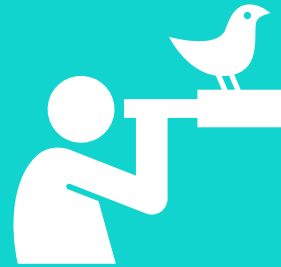
They support the organisation in various activities, such as organizing events, creating materials, assisting with bird conservation efforts, and promoting the organisation's mission through education and media. These volunteers also contribute by taking photographs and creating content to showcase the impact of ornithological work and to raise awareness about conservation efforts. Their contributions play a crucial role in making work effective.

Being a volunteer can encompass both specialized and supportive roles, and these functions are not mutually exclusive. The most important criterion for selecting volunteers for the organisation is that their values and principles align with the organisation's mission. This requirement is essential for ensuring effective collaboration and commitment from all volunteers.

Volunteering opportunities



Reserves helpers:
cleanups, reserves
maintenance.



Citizen science:
birdwatching, bird
counting, bird ringing



Naturalists in schools:
supporting teachers.



**Injured birds handling and
support:** help with bird
collection and first aid for
birds.



Wildlife crime monitoring:
participation in illegal hunting
monitoring camps, active
recording and reporting of illegal
hunting and trapping cases.



Educational events: engagement
with attendees, activities
development and realization,
materials design, taking pictures
during the event, and writing
posts about the event.



Youth group: active participation
in youth initiatives dedicated to
self-development and nature
protection in Malta.



**Engagement with fishermen
and boat operators:**
questionnaire survey.

Volunteering policy

1. Purpose:

The purpose is to establish the guidelines and expectations for volunteers who work with our organisation.

2. Eligibility:

Any individual who shares our mission to protect and preserve birds and their habitats, and who is willing to donate their time and skills, is eligible to become a volunteer.

3. Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteer opportunities vary depending on the needs at certain time of the season.

4. Training and Support:

All volunteers will receive appropriate training and support to carry out their tasks effectively. This may include training sessions, access to resources and materials, and ongoing support from staff and other volunteers.

5. Responsibilities:

Volunteers are expected to always conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner and to follow the policies and procedures of the organisation.

6. Liability:

The organisation accepts no liability for injury, loss or damage sustained by volunteers while engaged in volunteer activities.

7. Confidentiality:

Volunteers must maintain confidentiality with regard to all information they access while volunteering with the organisation.

8. Recognition:

The organisation recognizes and appreciates the contributions of its volunteers and may offer opportunities for recognition and advancement.

9. Termination:

The organisation reserves the right to terminate the volunteer relationship at any time, for any reason.

By volunteering with our organisation, volunteers agree to abide by this policy.

Basic principles of volunteering

The basic principles of volunteering are centered around making a positive impact on birds and their habitats, communities and supporting the organisation's mission. This includes acting with integrity and professionalism, upholding the organisation's policies and procedures, and treating all individuals, including other volunteers and staff, with respect and kindness. Volunteers are also expected to embrace ongoing learning and development, both in terms of their own personal growth and in support of the organisation's efforts. Additionally, volunteers are encouraged to collaborate with each other and with staff, sharing skills, knowledge, and experiences to achieve the greatest impact.

Organization and coordination of volunteering

The organization and coordination of volunteering is crucial to ensure that our efforts are focused and effective. Volunteer activities are managed and coordinated by staff, who work closely with volunteers to identify opportunities and match skills and interests with specific tasks. Regular communication and feedback mechanisms are in place to ensure that volunteers are supported and have the information they need to be successful in their roles. The organisation also regularly evaluates its volunteer program to ensure that it is meeting the needs of both the organisation and its volunteers.



Photo: A. Tanti

Offers and substantive support for volunteers

- Clear information about the organization's mission, goals, and volunteer opportunities.
- Regular communication channels, such as newsletters and online forums, to keep volunteers informed about organizational activities and developments.
- Sharing experiences, questions, and feedback, and responding in a timely and respectful manner.
- Recognition and appreciation volunteers' contributions through certificates, awards, or other forms of recognition.
- Opportunities for volunteers to participate in research projects, field trips, and outreach events to gain more knowledge and experience.
- Opportunities to use our social media platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook, Tik tok and Instagram, to promote volunteer opportunities, share organizational updates, and engage with volunteers and supporters.
- Opportunities to create a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for specific projects or initiatives that involve volunteers, such as bird monitoring or habitat restoration.
- Positive and inclusive environment that welcomes diversity, equity, and inclusion.





Photo: A. Gawrońska

Contact

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how you can get involved, please don't hesitate to contact us directly for more information.

Email: education@birdlifemalta.org

Phone: +356 21347625

We are available to take your calls Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm CET.

Address: 57/28 Marina Court, Abate Rigord Street, Ta' Xbiex

 [birdlifemalta](https://www.facebook.com/birdlifemalta)

 [birdlife_malta](https://www.instagram.com/birdlife_malta)

Jane Goodall often says that young people give her hope.

We want to give them tools and opportunities to become more than just a hope.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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