

## A Day at Birds of Eden

Birds of Eden is a unique sanctuary that is constantly changing. The staff are very busy and always welcome a helping hand! We need volunteers that are willing to put in a little bit of hard work for the sake of the animals they will be working with. Volunteers are usually asked to work five days per week. Please note that off days may not fall on a weekend.

Day-to-day activities vary depending on what is needed at any given time. However, the detail below gives a good idea of the type of work that our volunteers will help with.

### **08:00**

Arrive at Birds of Eden hospital.

In the morning, the volunteers are required to help the permanent staff with the morning routine of cleaning the hospital and quarantine animals. There is never a set routine as the inhabitants are ever changing and each one requires its own individual care. With the help of our permanent staff, the volunteers will quickly learn how to distinguish what each different species requires.

The cleaning routine will though include cleaning out the cages that currently have occupants by washing the food and water bowls and giving a fresh change of newspaper. They will also prep the food that will be dispersed through the various cages in the hospital and quarantine areas and the pre-release cages for the birds being introduced into the sanctuary.

The birds in the cages are also monitored for their well-being and to see how they are progressing, whether they are recovering at the hospital or being prepared for release into the wider aviary.

### **09:00**

After feeding and cleaning, the volunteers are then asked to clean boardwalks, where a section of the sanctuary's boardwalk will be designated to them. This involves removing all old food and faeces from the planks, barriers and feeding platforms.

### **9:30 to 15:00**

The duties during this period are varied and ever changing. However, they are likely to include:

- helping with small maintenance jobs within the sanctuary;
- helping with the 11am feeding;
- keeping the park clean by picking up litter;
- looking for nests of certain species;
- looking after the guests that are roaming the park;
- monitoring the animals within the park; and

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- many other small tasks that keep anyone working here busy and interested at all times!

Volunteers who stay with us longer term and have learned about all of our bird species may also be invited to take visitors on guided tours and/or guide media parties through our sanctuary.

### **15:30 until 17:00**

Various tasks are carried out at the end of the day to ensure that everything is OK in the park and we're ready for the next day. Whilst many of these are handled by the Manager and Assistant Manager, we welcome the volunteers helping out. The tasks may include:

- giving certain birds the special attention they might require, whether medical or otherwise;
- prepping and storing food for the following day;
- removing all of the food bowls (so that they don't attract vermin) and taking them back to the farm area; and
- making sure that everything is locked and put away safely.

### **17:00**

Close of day, volunteers return to their accommodation.

### **Tea Breaks and Lunch**

Tea is not taken at a pre-determined time as we need to take it when the situation demands. However, on most days, the staff and volunteers will take a short break at around 10am and a further short break in the afternoon.

Lunch is generally taken at around 1pm.

**NB: At no time will the humanisation of the birds and other animals in our sanctuary be allowed; we are clinical in our "HANDS OFF" approach towards all animals in our care.**