

## Vallcalent Bearded Vulture Captive-Breeding Officer (Lleida, Spain) – Full-time

### Overall purpose of the job

To support the VCF Bearded Vulture EEP/Vallcalent specialized captive-breeding centre coordinator on all tasks.

### Position

Full time 1 year contract, with potential renewal into permanent contract

Reporting to: VCF Bearded Vulture EEP coordinator & Vallcalent specialized captive breeding centre coordinator

### Background

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

1. Public area receiving visits, mostly schools, for environmental education, including a small, handicapped bird collection.
2. Wildlife Rehabilitation Department, including the Hospital and the rehabilitation facilities.
3. Project Departments, 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 18 aviaries. Additionally, 1 more aviary inside the public area is destined for the Bearded Vulture.

The Vallcalent Bearded Vulture Captive Breeding 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.

The Vallcalent Bearded Vulture unit specializes in receiving Bearded Vulture pairs with behavioural-difficulties which have not reproduced in other institutions, or which require specific management and/or artificial incubation to obtain descendants, and birds with severe physical disabilities -requiring

periodically vet attention- for reproduction. Currently it houses 30 birds, with very valuable bloodlines from the Pyrenees, from Crete and from 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 coordinator of the Vallcalent Bearded Vulture unit coordinates also the Bearded Vulture EEP, being one of his responsibilities to advise all EEP partners and to edit and update the guidelines of this international captive breeding program.

The Vallcalent Bearded Vulture unit contributes to all Bearded Vulture reintroduction projects associated with the VCF and provides advice to captive-breeding of other vulture species.

Summarizing, the goals of the Vallcalent Bearded Vulture captive breeding Unit are:

- Reproduce behaviourally difficult and founder and/or handicapped birds.
- Produce chicks
- Use imprinted birds as foster parents.
- Adoptions of hatchlings
- Advice EEP partners
- Edit and update guidelines for the captive breeding program.
- Participate in all Bearded Vulture conservation projects approved by the VCF/ EEP
- Advise Bearded Vulture new reintroduction projects
- Participate in the treatment of Pyrenean wild recovered Bearded Vulture
- Advise on all recovered Bearded Vultures coming from the reintroduction projects approved by the VCF/EEP
- General advice on technical/behavioural aspects re. Vulture captive-breeding

## **Main duties & responsibilities**

Throughout the year, the main tasks include collecting, preparing, and storing food; feeding the birds; maintaining and cleaning the cages; and continuously monitoring and caring for the birds. In addition, outside the breeding season, to contribute to data management, and during the breeding season (November–May), to collaborate on activities related to monitoring the reproductive cycle of birds, artificial incubation, and chick rearing.

- Daily bird monitoring, including through video camera system and recordings.
- Weekly collection of food from neighbouring farms
- 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. strong fights, for treatments, etc.)
- Monitoring artificial incubation (egg control, thermal shock, adapt incubation parameters in relation egg/embryo evolution, etc.)
- Rearing of chicks.
- Participate in the collection and storage of all monitoring data.
- Support the VCF EEP coordinator and the VCF Bearded Vulture Captive Breeding Officer in all tasks related with their daily office work (EEP coordination and Vallcalent Bearded Vulture unit management).
- Participate on transfer of birds/clutches.
- Participate, if needed, in situ in VCF/EEP approved reintroduction projects.
- Some flexibility in working hours.

## Education - Skills - Experience required

- ✓ At least 2 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.
- ✓ Experience in working in a team.
- ✓ Good organizational and planning skills, ability to determine and set work priorities, organise activities and an ability to adhere to deadlines.
- ✓ Fluency in Spanish is required. Knowledge of English is desirable. Catalan speakers are also welcome.
- ✓ Able to travel 2-4 times a year.

## Job Location

Vallcalent centre, Lleida, Spain.

## Salary and benefits

1400-1700€ gross salary. Travel expenses also covered.

## Start date

As soon as possible, and not later than 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## How to apply

Please send your CV and cover letter, both in English, to [recruitment@4vultures.org](mailto:recruitment@4vultures.org) in one single PDF (please give your name to the pdf file).

Please include in the email subject: BV Officer – [Your Name]

Deadline: Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 23:59 CET. Applications received after the closing date will be automatically discarded.