



Head of Birds (Full-Time)

Billabong Sanctuary – Townsville, QLD

Billabong Sanctuary is seeking an experienced and motivated **Head of Birds** to join our team in a full-time capacity.

Billabong Sanctuary is an established wildlife park in North Queensland, delivering high-quality, interactive wildlife experiences. The Sanctuary holds Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation, is a member of the Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) and actively participates in captive breeding and conservation programs for endangered species.

The Role

The Head of Birds is responsible for the leadership, development, and day-to-day management of the avian department. Reporting to the Curator and working closely with the management team, this role ensures high standards of animal welfare, husbandry, and presentation, while supporting visitor engagement and education outcomes.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead, supervise, and mentor avian keeping staff
- Oversee daily husbandry, enrichment, and welfare of the bird collection
- Maintain high standards of enclosure presentation and biosecurity
- Monitor animal health and coordinate veterinary requirements
- Manage dietary requirements and feeding programs
- Contribute to collection planning, exhibit development, and species management
- Deliver wildlife presentations, educational programs, and guided tours
- Maintain accurate records (e.g. Species360/ZIMS)
- Collaborate across departments to support whole-of-site operations

Selection Criteria

- Certificate III in Captive Animals (or equivalent qualification/experience)
- Demonstrated experience working with Australian bird species
- Previous supervisory or team leadership experience (desirable)
- Sound understanding of animal welfare principles, including the Five Domains
- Strong organisational, communication, and time management skills
- Experience in public presentations and visitor engagement
- Ability to work effectively within a team and contribute to a positive workplace culture

Requirements

- Availability to work across a 7-day roster, including weekends, public holidays, and school holidays
- Current manual driver's licence and own transport
- Current First Aid Certificate
- Queensland Blue Card (or ability to obtain)
- Q Fever vaccination (mandatory), Hepatitis A & B (preferred)
- Ability to work in a physically demanding outdoor environment in North Queensland

Application Process

Applications should include a current resume and cover letter outlining relevant experience and suitability for the role.

Please submit applications to:

gm@billabongsanctuary.com.au