

Wildlife training workshops 2009



Ground Beetles of Wetland
Pitsford May 2004

Putting your training into practice The Wildlife Trust runs a comprehensive programme of wildlife training every year, actively supporting the personal development of its volunteers, but also encouraging those new to natural history to join in and learn more about their local wildlife. The Trust also provides the opportunity to put the skills you acquire to good use by joining the Wildlife Trust Ecology Groups, teams of locally based volunteers who want to actively support their local wildlife and their habitats. The challenge for the Ecology Groups is to help improve habitat management on our nature reserves, through monitoring, combining the skills of natural history with existing ecological knowledge and a scientific approach. The result is local people working together, to support the enhancement of our natural environment. Both beginners and experienced naturalists are welcome to join the Ecology Groups; all you need to bring is your enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. To find out more about Ecology Groups, check out our website or contact Henry Stanier via email ecologygroups@wildlifebcnp.org

'Beginning with' workshops:

Due to success of our 'Beginning with' workshops held during 2008, we are holding similar workshops during 2009.

As well as including a general introduction to the topic, we cover examples of the local wildlife that you will encounter when out exploring. Easing you into the natural world, these are an excellent start before moving on to our other, more detailed workshops, if you wish to do so.

So, if you are a fledgling birdwatcher, want to discover the nocturnal world of bats or want to investigate wildflowers or insects, then we have something for you to discover. (see dates and venues for each workshop overleaf).

Note these workshops are £15 each for non professionals.

NEW WORKSHOPS FOR 2009

Beginning with 'county' Wildlife

Whether you are new to the area, new to the Trust or just want to know more about your local wildlife, you will enjoy this guide to birds, plants, mammals and other animals of the county. You will find out about some of the top wildlife hotspots in your area, including Wildlife Trust nature reserves, and what makes them so special. The day will include presentations and a short, guided walk (subject to weather). This year's programme has included workshops covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and now Peterborough, so please let us know if you want more next year.

Beginning with digital photography

Take the first steps to developing your photography skills now that you have purchased one of the many relatively cheap, compact digital cameras currently available. This workshop covers both basic photography techniques and the functioning of digital cameras, all with reference to the photography of people, places and wildlife (within the context of wildlife conservation). Taking place at Ring Haw Field Station, Old Sulehay, this nature reserve is diverse in wildlife and wildlife habitats, providing plenty of subjects to photograph. You will need to bring your own camera for this workshop.

Pitsford

This year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of Pitsford Reservoir nature reserve. Amongst the many events taking place we have some training workshops you might be interested in, such as Beginning with Northamptonshire Wildlife, Freshwater Invertebrates and Wetland Birds. **We gratefully acknowledge the support of Anglian Water for workshops being held at Pitsford this year.**

This leaflet can be downloaded from our website at www.wildlifebcnp.org

Booking Form

Please fill in the county code, number of places required, name, date and price of each workshop for which you would like to book, continue on a blank sheet if necessary

County code	No of places	Workshop Name	Date	Price*

*Workshops are free for Trust volunteers – see note below

DATE Amount enclosed £

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL: (day) (eve)

e-mail:

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR INFORMATION POSTED OR E-MAILED?

FORMAT FOR E-MAIL, eg pdf, rich text

LIFT SHARING – are you happy for your details to be passed on to another participant?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are you a member of the Wildlife Trust? Yes No

Are you a volunteer for the Wildlife Trust? Yes No

Is this your first Wildlife Training Workshop? Yes No

If a volunteer, in what capacity?

Is your employer paying for your attendance on this workshop?

We promise that your details will be used only by The Wildlife Trust.

We would like to keep you in touch with the work we do to protect the local wildlife and events and fundraising. If you would prefer us **NOT** to use your details in this way, please tick here.

We may from time to time use your details for our own analysis and market research. If you would prefer us **NOT** to use your details in this way, please tick here.

This form is also available to download from our website.

Contact details and booking information

Note that most workshops incorporate an indoor session and a field trip to a nature reserve or other suitable site. If you have any reservations regarding the amount of walking or terrain, please contact the Wildlife Training Workshops Officer before booking.

To book onto a Wildlife Trust training workshop first contact the Wildlife Training Workshops Officer on 01604 405285 (Tues, Wed, Fri) or e-mail trainingworkshops@wildlifebcnp.org to check whether spaces are available.

Then send a cheque payable to The Wildlife Trust, *along with the completed booking form*, to: Wildlife Training Workshops, The Wildlife Trust, Lings House, Billing Lings, NORTHAMPTON NN3 8BE

FEES If you are a Wildlife Trust Ecology Group member, Watch Leader, Reserve Warden or a key regular volunteer, these workshops are free of charge, but please complete a booking form.

For non-professional participants or if you work for another Wildlife Trust, the cost is **£25**. The cost for the 'Beginning with' workshops for non-professionals is **£15**.

If you are using our programme for professional training, the standard fee is **£115** per workshop (eg environmental consultancies, statutory nature conservation organisations etc).

Once received you will receive confirmation immediately and a programme and location details 2 weeks prior to the workshop.

Cancellations We regret that refunds are only available if your cancellation is received at least

one month before the workshop date. Workshops are very popular and often over-subscribed; therefore it helps us if you would let us know in good time if you are not able to attend. Your place can then be offered to someone else. **If a person fails to show up at two workshops and has not given us reasonable warning then their bookings will be removed from any further workshops that year.**

If you wish to book onto a **Dragonfly workshop**, then please contact The Dragonfly Project, 23 Bowker Way, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1PY, telephone 01733 204286 or e-mail courses@dragonflyproject.org.uk.

Contents

Workshops are arranged under the following headings:

- Botany
- Lower plants and fungi
- Vertebrates
- Practical skills
- Invertebrates
- Community
- Basic ecology skills
- Beginning with Wildlife

County Code:

- B = Bedfordshire
- C = Cambridgeshire
- N = Northamptonshire
- P = Peterborough

Workshop details

Workshops that are already fully booked have been omitted from the following, updated list.

B Beginning with Bedfordshire Wildlife

Cooper's Hill 5-Apr-09 10am – 4pm
Henry Stanier and Chris Donnelly

An introduction to your local wildlife, where you can find it and what makes it so special. Includes an overview of some of the top wildlife hotspots in the Bedfordshire area.

N Identification of Vegetative Grasses

Bradlaugh 18-Apr-09 10am – 4pm
Karen Buckley

An essential skill if you want to survey grazed or mown grassland or to be able to work early in the year before grasses flower. Probably best suited to those with some familiarity with the grass family but this is not essential.

B BES: Habitat Management Principles and Practice: Heathland

Cooper's Hill 19-Apr-09 10am – 4pm
Graham Bellamy and Ed Turner

Particularly suitable for nature reserve wardens, habitat management team volunteers and Ecology Group members, this workshop explains the reasons behind how and why we manage our heathland nature reserves.

C Introduction to Great Crested Newts

Ramsey Heights 25-Apr-09 3pm – 9pm
Terry and Helen Moore

Ramsey Heights Claypits reserve is home to a large population of great crested newts. This course will cover the identification, life history and habitat of these and other native and introduced amphibians. There will also be sessions on improving habitats for great crested newts, survey techniques and

legislation. The workshop will finish with a practical demonstration of a torchlight great crested newt survey of the ponds.

N Beginning with Birdsong (£30 for series of 4)

Old Sulehay and Glapthorn Cow Pastures
(2 evenings and 2 mornings)
7-May 7pm – 9pm 9-May 8am – 12pm
14-May 7pm – 9pm 16-May 8am – 12pm
Henry Stanier and Phil Rudkin

Take the first steps to developing your ability to identify birds by their calls. This series will cover the songs and calls of garden birds and the typical spring and summer migrants visiting our woodlands at this time of year. (Series of 4 sessions)

B Sheep Management and Conservation Grazing

Pegsdon Hills 10-May-09 10am – 4pm
Graham Bellamy and Nick Kiddy

This workshop is an opportunity for complete beginners, or for those with some experience of checking livestock, to talk with Graham and Nick about the Trusts' grazing. Also to have a refresher in handling animals, health checking, foot trimming and other stock tasks. This will be a largely practical session.

N Beginning with Bats

Barnwell Country Park 23-May-09 5pm–10.30pm
Henry Stanier and Chris Donnelly

Explore the world of bats; what are they and where are they, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes an evening guided walk to detect and observe local species.

N Beginning with Wildflowers

Old Sulehay 23-May-09 10.30am-4.30pm
Gill Gent and Nathalie Hueber

Do you know the difference between a daisy and a dandelion or a thistle and a knapweed? Do you know the parts that make up a flowerhead? Learn how to use identification keys and other resources such as floras.

C Beginning with Bats

Grafham Water 30-May-09 5pm-10.30pm
Henry Stanier and Chris Donnelly

Explore the world of bats; what are they and where are they, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes an evening guided walk to detect and observe local species.

N Identification of Buttercups and Roses

Old Sulehay 6-Jun-09 10am – 4pm
Neil Crossman

This workshop will aim to get participants familiar with a representative range of species within these 2 important plant families, the Ranunculaceae and the Rosaceae. Emphasis will be placed on recognition of a plant's family before progressing to genus and then species level. Suitable for beginners, although a prior knowledge of basic botanical terminology will be assumed.

N Soldier Beetles

Old Sulehay 13-Jun-09 10am – 4pm
Brian Eversham

Representatives of this distinctive family of beetles are familiar to most people from summer walks in woodlands, meadows and fens. There are over 40

species in this country nearly all of which occur in the Trust area and they have potential for use in monitoring grasslands, fens and possibly grassland/scrub mosaics. A day is sufficient to get to know most of the more commonly encountered larger species; part of the workshop will be based on an easy-to-use chart designed for quick identification in the field and longer, more definitive keys for confirmation back indoors with a hand-lens or microscope.

B Beginning with Insects

Cooper's Hill 14-Jun-09 10am-4pm
Ed Turner

Explore the world of insects; what are they and where are they, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes a guided walk to search for, find and observe local species.

C Dragonfly Larvae Identification for Beginners

Wicken Fen 14-Jun-09
The Dragonfly Project

The aim of this course is for participants to be able to identify larvae to genus and understand the basic steps of "keying out" to species. Book through The Dragonfly Project (see under Contact Details).

B Butterflies and Day-flying moths

Totterhoe Quarry 27-Jun-09 10am-4pm
Ed Turner

Day-flying moths and butterflies are one of the most charismatic groups of insects and are particularly important in ecological monitoring. This is because they are a well-known group and can be used to assess changes in the environment brought about by farming practices and climate change. Different habitat requirements of adults and larvae may also make them particularly sensitive to environmental changes. This training workshop is aimed at the beginner and will concentrate on the identification of the commoner species and surveying methods.

C Summer Tree Identification (£15)

Fulbourn Fen 4-Jul-09 12pm – 4pm
Pete Michna

A half day will be spent at Fulbourn looking at the features which can be used to identify some of the trees and shrubs, both wild and planted, on the reserve and in the village. Identification keys will be used. Suitable for beginners and improvers.

C Introducing the Dragonfly

Wicken Fen 4-Jul-09
The Dragonfly Project

Specifically designed for the beginners, this course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification. Book through the Dragonfly Project (See under Contact Details).

C Adult Dragonfly and Waterplant Identification for Beginners

Wicken Fen 5-Jul-09
The Dragonfly Project

The aim of this workshop is for participants to be able to identify common species of adult dragonflies and water plants. Book through the Dragonfly Project (See under Contact Details).

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP

P Beginning with Peterborough Wildlife

Barnack Hills and Hollows 4-Jul-09
Henry Stanier and Chris Donnelly

Made famous by the poet John Clare and rich in wetlands, ancient woodlands, and flower-filled grasslands, the Soke of Peterborough is a fascinating part of the country. You will find out about some of the top wildlife hotspots in the area, including Wildlife Trust nature reserves, and what makes them so special. The day will include presentations and a guided walk around Barnack Hills and Holes national nature reserve.

N Flowering Grasses

Old Sulehay 11-Jul-09 10am – 4pm
Lynne Farrell and Liz Blackman

The aim of this workshop is to be able to identify common grasses in the field using basic characteristics. Participants will be encouraged and helped to use keys and books in the classroom for some of the grasses collected.

B Heathland Invertebrate Indicators

Cooper's Hill 12-Jul-09 10am – 4pm
Brian Eversham

A heathland in good condition will support a wide range of characteristic and specialist insects, spiders and other invertebrates. Many of these are fairly large and distinctive, and therefore readily recognised, often with only a hand-lens in the field. This workshop will introduce a range of the most important species, including field sampling, identification keys and recognition charts, and will outline the potential for monitoring such species to assess the condition of the heathland.

C Umbellifers

Ramsey Heights/Woodwalton Fen 18-Jul-09
10am – 4pm Neil Crossman

This course aims to familiarise participants with many of the umbellifers found in our area, including all of the common ones and some rarities. Although the main focus will be on the use of identification keys, a consideration of the ecology and habitats of umbellifers will be included.

N How to set up a Butterfly Transect

Glapthorn Cow Pastures 18-Jul-09 10am-4pm
Robin Field

Butterflies are one of the fastest disappearing groups of species. It is important that we understand why this is happening at any specific site and the only way we can do that is with long term monitoring. This can be carried out by walking a butterfly transect. In this workshop we will investigate how a new butterfly transect is set up. The morning will be spent inside looking at the requirements for setting one up and in the afternoon, we will be seeing how to record on it and look at butterfly identification.

B Ants – Identification and Ecology

Cooper's Hill 19-Jul-09 10am – 4pm
Ed Turner

A small but ecologically vital group of distinctive insects. Only about 20 species have been recorded in our area and it should be possible to learn to identify all these on the course. Ants are fascinating in their own right and are also useful in habitat monitoring.

C Beginning with Wildflowers

Cambourne 25-Jul-09 10am – 4pm
Brian Eversham

Do you know the difference between a daisy and a dandelion or a thistle and a knapweed? Do you know the parts that make up a flowerhead? Learn how to use identification keys and other resources such as floras.

C Introducing the Dragonfly

Wicken Fen 25-Jul-09
The Dragonfly Project

Specifically designed for the beginner, this course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification. Book through the Dragonfly Project (See under Contact Details).

P Beginning with Bats

Burghley Park 1-Aug-09 5pm – 10.30pm
Henry Stanier and Chris Donnelly

Explore the world of bats; what are they and where are they, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes an evening guided walk to detect and observe local species.

N Beginning with Digital Photography (£30 for series of 4)

Old Sulehay	8-Aug	10am – 2pm
Henry Stanier	12-Aug	7pm – 9pm
	19-Aug	10am – 2pm
	23-Aug	10am – 2pm

This workshop covers both basic photography techniques and the functioning of digital cameras, all with reference to the photography of people, places and wildlife (within the context of wildlife conservation). You will need to bring your own camera to this workshop.

N Field Techniques: Finding and Surveying Terrestrial Invertebrates

Old Sulehay 9-Aug-09 10am – 4pm
Brian Eversham

This day will cover the range of techniques for finding and surveying many different kinds of invertebrates in grasslands, heathlands, scrub and woodland. This will include direct searching and transects, sampling methods such as beating, sweeping and suction sampling, and trapping techniques such as pitfalls and baited traps. The strengths and weaknesses of each, and its appropriateness for different kinds of invertebrates will be discussed. Weather permitting, a prolonged fieldwork session will explore the microhabitats within broad habitats and how these can best be sampled.

N Beginning with Insects

Old Sulehay 22-Aug-09 10am – 4pm
Henry Stanier

Explore the world of insects; what are they and where are they, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes a guided walk to search for, find and observe local species.

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP

N Beginning with Northamptonshire Wildlife

Pitsford Reservoir 5-Sep-09 10am – 4pm
Henry Stanier and Chris Donnelly

Fantastic for its wetland birds and so much more, Northamptonshire has a lot to offer those interested in wildlife. Well known as the heart of the Rockingham Forest and full of rich wetland habitats strung along the valley of the River Nene, it is a hotspot for watching wildlife. The day will include a guided walk around the nature reserve which is celebrating its 40th anniversary; what better place to learn about the birds, plants, mammals and other animals of the county.

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP

N Freshwater Invertebrates

Pitsford Reservoir 12-Sep-09 10am – 4pm
Richard Chadd

This workshop will give the participants a chance to identify species from the rich diversity of invertebrates which inhabit rivers, lakes, ponds & wetlands, including snails, leeches, crustaceans and a range of insect orders. A brief introduction to these animals, including use of the data obtained, will be followed by practical work using identification manuals. An extensive reference collection of preserved invertebrates will be made available, and the workshop will also involve a brief field-trip to the shore of the reservoir, where sampling techniques will be introduced and live animals obtained for identification back in the centre. Participants should finish the day with grounding in the means of going about assessing the biodiversity importance of any given freshwater site, based on communities of these fascinating creatures.

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP

B Shieldbugs and Squashbugs

Cooper's Hill 20-Sep-09 10am – 4pm
Bernard Nau

The shieldbugs are a distinctive and readily identified group of families which form an ideal introduction to the Heteroptera or True Bugs. A rich site in our area might support 15 species and, with a little practice, most of these can be identified in the field with a hand lens or even the naked eye. Some species may be useful in nature reserve monitoring and, having begun the study of bugs with these charismatic insects, participants may choose to progress on to other families of bugs.

C Beginning with Insects

Cambourne 26-Sep-09 10am – 4pm
Brian Eversham

Explore the world of insects; what are they and where are they, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes a guided walk to search for, find and observe local species.

C Fungi and Foray

Gamlingay Wood 17-Oct-09 10am – 4pm
Peter Walker

The indoor session will include an illustrated talk on fungi and their biology. During the field trip specimens will be collected and identified and fungi habitats will be examined.

C Small Mammals

Cambourne 17-Oct-09 and 18-Oct-09
5.30pm – 7pm/8am – 2pm
Peter Pilbeam and members of the
Cambridgeshire Mammal Group

Capture and identification of small mammals will be demonstrated in this workshop along with a range of related aspects of work on small mammals. The evening session will show how to set a variety of small mammal traps and where to put them, plus some aspects of trapping methodology best shown in the field (in this case in woodland). The early start is to see what has been caught overnight - the welfare of any trapped animals is of paramount importance. Participants should have the chance to see some small mammals close up for identification and study (and for prompt return to the wild). There will be sessions on British mammals in general, on other methods of studying small mammals (eg owl pellet analysis), on some further aspects of trapping methodology, and on small mammal surveying.

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP

N Wetland Birds

Pitsford Reservoir 18-Oct-09 10am – 4pm
Dave Francis

This workshop will concentrate on birds that swim, birds that wade and other birds which use wetland environments. The indoor sessions will outline the way in which birds have adapted to wetland habitats, how this has determined their shapes and how behaviour can be used as part of the identification process. Most of the day will be spent in the field at Pitsford Water nature reserve looking at the birds and how they use this beautiful nature reserve.

C Community Involvement Skills

Note date change

Cambourne 24-Oct-09 10am – 4pm
Erin Vos

This interactive workshop will introduce participants to the principles of environmental education and community involvement, focusing on how to interact with casual visitors, school groups, volunteers and other community members in local greenspaces.

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS

N Drystone Walling

Old Sulehay 8-Nov-09 10am – 4pm
Lisa Adams

A chance to learn the ancient skill of drystone walling using limestone. These walls form an excellent habitat for a variety of plants, lichens, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles.

N Coppicing

Short Wood 22-Nov-09 10am – 4pm
Lisa Adams

This workshop will examine the theory and practice of coppicing. The day will be spent at the wood looking at coppicing, layering and ride-widening and how these activities can benefit the flora and fauna of the wood.

N Hedgelaying

Ditchford 6-Dec-09 10am – 4pm
Lisa Adams

Hedgelaying maintains the density and structure of hedgerows thereby benefiting both the hedge and the plants and creatures that depend on it. This practical workshop is suitable both for beginners and for those wishing to improve or revive existing skills.