



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

2012 Wildlife Training Workshops

A wide-ranging programme of wildlife courses led by enthusiastic trainers. Discover more about natural history and the varied wildlife and habitats of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough.

**Protecting wildlife
close to home**

Invertebrates

N Hoverfly Identification

This indoor workshop is aimed at people who have already completed a basic training course in hoverfly identification and who may have collected some specimens that are proving tricky to identify. The aim of the workshop is to help with difficulties in identification and to review some of the more challenging tribes. It will be very much a hands-on workshop where each participant will help colleagues as well as the tutor giving advice and showing some of the features that separate difficult species.

Date(s): Saturday 11 February 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay
Trainer(s): John Showers

N Spring Moths and Caterpillars

This workshop will start with beating for caterpillars, to coincide with the spring peak in abundance, on broad-leaved trees and shrubs. Light trapping and wine roping will be used for spring flying moths and other techniques will be illustrated. During the indoor session, the focus will be on the identification of caterpillars found and approaches to identification in general. Information will be given on "local specialities" and how to rear caterpillars.

Date(s)and timings:
Saturday 12 May 2012 – 2.30pm – 10pm
Sunday 13 May 2012 – 9.30am – 4.30pm
Venue: Old Sulehay
Trainer(s): Paul Waring

2 sessions for £40

C Ecology and Identification of Ladybirds

Come and learn to identify Britain's 26 ladybird species and hear about the ecology of these fascinating beetles. The workshop will consist of a talk, light fieldwork and close-up examination of ladybirds indoors. The session should equip you to carry out ladybird surveys independently and to identify your finds with confidence.

Date(s): Saturday 12 May 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Brampton Wood
Trainer(s): Peter Brown

Henry Stanier



B Identification of Water Bugs

The aim is to introduce participants to a small, but diverse, group of freshwater invertebrates. Some are familiar and easily recognised, such as the water stick insect, but others need more careful examination and a few are quite challenging. There will be an opportunity to collect specimens and by the end of the day participants should be able to recognise the families and genera, be able to identify many to species with the use of keys, and will have some understanding of their ecology.

Date(s): Saturday 19 May 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Felmersham
Trainer(s): Sheila Brooke

C Dragonfly Larvae Identification for Beginners

The aim of this course is for participants to identify dragonfly larvae to genus and understand the basic steps of keying out to species. This will consist of the Microscope-TV link, one-to-one guidance, self-study periods and, dependent on the weather, a hunt for larvae/exuviae – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

Date(s): Sunday 17 June 2012
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Henry Curry and Henry Stanier

B Introduction to Bumblebees

Easily recognisable, this group is of considerable ecological importance in the temperate regions of the world. Learn more about these fascinating insects, their identification and their role in modern conservation in this country.

Date(s): Saturday 23 June 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: King's Wood, Heath and Reach
Trainer(s): Adrian Knowles

N Identification of Longhorn and Soldier Beetles

This new workshop covers two attractive groups of beetles, both of which are plentiful in our woods, and are colourful and distinctive, with elongate bodies. Longhorn beetles (Cerambycidae), are among the best-known of all forest beetles, frequently seen feeding on hawthorn, hogweed and bramble blossoms. There are about 50 British species. Soldier beetles (Cantharidae), with soft, parallel-sided wingcases, are often boldly patterned in red and black, and most of the 41 species are quite easy to recognise. They can be found in long grass, on low vegetation or on bushes and the leaves of trees, in early summer. Grasslands and rides within woodlands are among the best habitats for soldier beetles. The two families together can be very helpful in evaluating and monitoring woodland, grassland and wetland habitats.

Date(s): Sunday 24 June 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Short Wood
Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

C Introduction to Hymenoptera

The Hymenoptera are composed of the pollen-feeding bees, the predatory wasps, the plant-feeding sawflies and the parasitic wasps. In all some 6000 species have been recorded from the British Isles. This course will enable the participants to identify this diverse order of insects to family, and in some cases to species level.

Date(s): Saturday 7 July 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Paxton Pits
Trainer(s): David Sheppard

Invertebrates

C Beginning with Dragonflies

Explore the world of the dragonfly; what they are and where they are, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes a guided walk to observe local species and pond-dip for larvae, in addition to information on how to survey for them, and how to build your own dragonfly pond.

Date(s): Sunday 1 July 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Ramsey Heights
Trainer(s): Henry Stanier

C Introducing the Dragonfly

Specifically designed for the beginner, this very popular course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification, and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

Date(s): Saturday 7 July 2012
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Ruary McKenzie Dodds

C Adult Dragonfly and Waterplant Identification for Beginners

The aim of this course is for participants to identify common species of adult dragonflies and water plants. There will be sessions using colour photo presentations and water plant collections, microscope-TV link, one-to-one guidance and a field tour of adult dragonfly and water plant habitats – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

Date(s): Sunday 8 July 2012
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Stuart Irons and Karen Buckley

C Dragonfly Larvae (Advanced)

The aim of this course is for participants to further their dragonfly larva ID skills and gain a deeper understanding of the anatomy, physiology and ecology of this important stage in the life-cycle. The course consists of classroom work, one-to-one guidance and fieldwork looking at habitats, larvae, and exuviae – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

Date(s): Saturday 28 July 2012
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Henry Curry and Henry Stanier



Jon Hawkins

N Beginning with Dragonflies

Explore the world of the dragonfly; what they are and where they are, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes a guided walk to observe local species and pond-dip for larvae, in addition to information on how to survey for them, and how to build your own dragonfly pond.

Date(s): Sunday 5 August 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows
Trainer(s): Henry Stanier

B Ants I

Ants are among the best-known and most fascinating of invertebrates. This introductory day will explain many of the intriguing facts of ant biology, and give insights into their often astonishing behaviour. Ideal insects for monitoring, participants will be shown methods which can be employed to sample ants, they will be trained to recognise ant genera, and to identify the 20 or so local species. Fieldwork will allow participants to observe a range of ant species on the nature reserve.

Date(s): Sunday 12 August 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Cooper's Hill
Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

N Grasshoppers and Bushcrickets by Sound

The course will look at the stridulations of the species, which is a very good way of identification. Also, catching and close-up visual identification will also add to the experience. This course would especially suit beginners.

Date(s): Saturday 18 August 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Old Sulehay
Trainer(s): Phil Rudkin

B Ants II

This new workshop is intended for people who have already a basic understanding of ants and their identification (such as is provided on Ants I), this course will concentrate on the identification of some of the more tricky species, especially the red ants in the genus *Myrmica*, which beginners tend to confuse. Much of the day will be spent identifying specimens with microscope or hand lens, though there will be an opportunity for fieldwork, too. The different closely-related species have distinct ecological requirements, and are especially useful in monitoring habitat structure.

Date(s): Sunday 19 August 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Cooper's Hill
Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

C Introducing the Dragonfly

Specifically designed for the beginner, this very popular course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification, and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

Date(s): Saturday 25 August 2012
Timings: 10am – 5pm
Venue: Wicken Fen
Trainer(s): Ruary McKenzie Dodds

N Pond Dipping for Adults

Dipping in pools with a net is a well-known activity for children. But it need not be an activity exclusively practiced by children. This course will take the "simple" a step further, by introducing participants to techniques for pond assessment and providing a crash-course in identification of pond macro-invertebrates to species level.

Date(s): Saturday 15 September 2012
Timings: 10am – 4pm
Venue: Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows
Trainer(s): Richard Chadd

Vertebrates

N Autumn Moths (including migrants)

This workshop will concentrate on autumn flying moths in all their diversity of autumn colours, in particular the "sallows and thorns". Wine-roping will be used, in addition to light trapping and other techniques, and natural attractants such as over-ripe blackberries will be inspected.

Date(s) and timings

Saturday 29 September 2012 – 5.30pm – 9pm

Sunday 30 September 2012 – 9.30am – 4.30pm

Venue: Old Sulehay

Trainer(s): Paul Waring

2 sessions for £40

N Beetles Associated with Dead Wood

This indoor workshop follows on from the 2011 session and is ideal for people who require assistance with any specimens which have proved tricky to identify.

Date(s): Saturday 20 October 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Old Sulehay

Trainer(s): Tony Drane

N Slugs and Snails

Everyone recognises slugs and snails as a group. They are among the most important decomposer organisms. Because most species are very poor dispersers, they are also excellent indicators of ancient woodland, grassland and wetland habitats. Almost all species can be reliably identified in the field with a hand-lens, and most with the naked eye.

Date(s): Sunday 21 October 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Old Sulehay

Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

N Hoverfly Identification

This one-day indoor workshop is designed to help previous participants develop their skills. Participants are expected to bring problem specimens and will be able to explore the identification of more challenging taxa such as *Pipiza*, *Cheilosia* and *Platycheirus*.

Date(s): Saturday 1 December 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Old Sulehay

Trainer(s): Roger Morris and Stuart Ball

P Identification of Woodpeckers and Tits

The course will concentrate on these birds, which will be in full voice and active in setting up territories at this time of year. Great Spotted Woodpecker and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker will be separated by their drumming, which is a great identification tool. Also we will look at and listen to Marsh and Willow Tits, and listen to their songs and calls.

Date(s): Saturday 3 March 2012

Timings: 8.30am – 3pm

Venue: Burghley Park

Trainer(s): Phil Rudkin

C Introduction to Amphibians

This course will cover the identification, life history and habitats of the native amphibians found in Cambridgeshire. By the end of the session you will be able to confidently tell frogs from toads and identify the different species of newt. There will be an evening tour of nearby ponds to see the animals up close and to practice the techniques of amphibian surveying.

Date(s): Saturday 17 March 2012

Timings: 3pm – 9pm

Venue: Cambourne

Trainer(s): Laura Watson

B An Introduction to Reptiles

This workshop will introduce participants to the identification of reptiles in the field, demonstrate where to look for them and how to encourage them to occupy favourable habitats. It is hoped that participants will come to appreciate and understand them rather than fear them.

Date(s): Sunday 15 April 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: King's Cliffe

Trainer(s): Brian Laney

B Territorial Ecology of Badgers

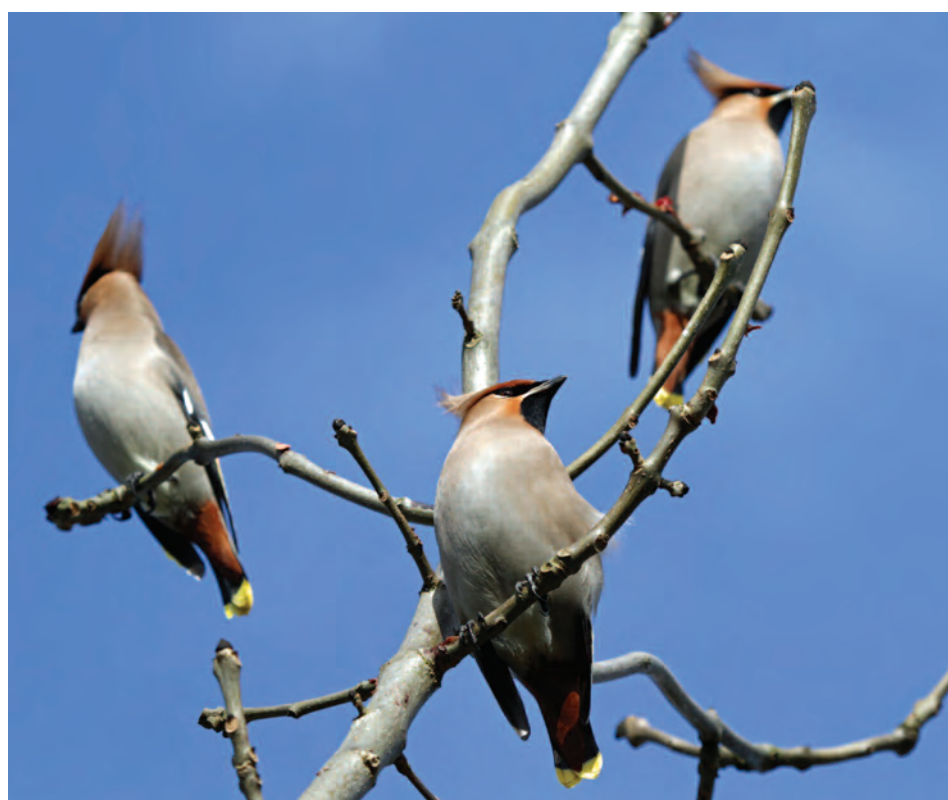
An introduction to badgers, their ecology, and their territorial behaviour with an emphasis on field signs. This will include a visit to some setts near Maulden, where the Bedfordshire Badger Network carried out a 10 year study of badger territories. A badger watch may be possible for some people after the workshop.

Date(s): Saturday 21 April 2012

Timings: 3pm – 7pm (possible badger watch 7.30pm – 9.30pm)

Venue: Maulden Wood

Trainer(s): Bob Cornes



Vertebrates

N Beginning with Birdsong

Begin to develop your ability to identify birds by their calls. This series will cover the songs of garden birds and those of the more common summer migrants visiting our woodlands at this time of year. This is a series of four sessions with a mix of indoor and outdoor activities and presentations.

Date(s) and timings:

Saturday 12 May 2012 (8am – 12pm)

Thursday 17 May 2012 (7pm – 9pm)

Saturday 26 May 2012 (8am – 12pm)

Thursday 31 May 2012 (7pm – 9pm)

Venue: Lings

Trainer(s): Paul Gosling

whole series £40

C Warbler Identification

This workshop aims at helping participants to identify our warblers by voice and plumage. It will start with an indoor session where we will listen to warbler songs and look at key features of warblers, to be followed by a walk testing our skills in the field. The workshop is open for beginners and those who want to improve existing identification skills alike.

Date(s): Saturday 26 May 2012

Timings: 7am – 12pm

Venue: Ramsey Heights/Woodwalton Fen

Trainer(s): Peter Herkenrath

only £20

N An Introduction to the Otter

This is an introduction to the European Otter, its biology, ecology, protection and conservation. Learn where, when and how to survey for them and how to distinguish their field signs; also, once you know where they are, a few tips on seeing one alive!

Date(s): Saturday 16 June 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Nene Valley

(exact location will be known nearer the time)

Trainer(s): Richard Lawrence



Jon Hawkins – Surrey Hills Photography

N Birdsong Refresher

A chance to see how much you've learned for yourself since the "Beginning with Birdsong" series, and a chance to swap learning tips and find out more about what's going on in Lings nature reserve this year. For those who wish there will also be an opportunity to visit another Wildlife Trust reserve to listen to different birdsong.

Date(s): Saturday 23 June 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Lings/Summer Leys

Trainer(s): Paul Gosling

B An Introduction to Reptiles

This workshop will introduce participants to the identification of reptiles in the field, demonstrate where to look for them and how to encourage them to occupy favourable habitats. It is hoped that participants will come to appreciate and understand them rather than fear them.

Date(s): Saturday 30 June 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Stockgrove Country Park

Trainer(s): Helen Muir-Howie

P Beginning with Bats

Explore the natural history of bats; what they are and where they are, their place in the world and how they live in it. Includes an evening guided walk to detect and observe local species and gain experience in using ultrasound detectors to "listen" to bat echolocation.

Date(s): Saturday 11 August 2012

Timings: 5pm – 10.30pm

Venue: Burghley Park

Trainer(s): Henry Stanier and Christine Donnelly

C Small Mammals

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 be used to set a variety of small mammal traps and the early start is to see what's been caught overnight – the welfare of any trapped animal is of paramount importance. There will be a session on British mammals in general, methods of study (eg owl pellet analysis) and on small mammal surveying.

Date(s) and timings:

Saturday 20 October 2012 (5pm – 6.30pm)

Sunday 21 October 2012 (8am – 1pm)

Venue: Paxton Pits

Trainer(s): Peter Pilbeam

Lower Plants



Brian Eversham

B Lichens on Trees

Lichens are among the best indicators of air quality and can help indicate the conservation value of many habitats. Many of the larger species can soon be recognised in the field with a hand lens or even the naked eye. The workshop will concentrate on finding a range of lichens, survey and monitoring techniques and field identification but will also introduce the use of microscopes and of chemical tests to help identification.

Date(s): Sunday 4 March 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Priory Country Park

Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

N Mosses and Liverworts

Mosses and liverworts are small but very varied; we will examine a range of species found locally, including some confusing ones which look superficially similar. We will start with features seen with a hand lens, progressing to microscope use to aid identification.

This course will build on previous workshops, but there will also be opportunities for inexperienced people to learn how to start looking at the detail of these beautiful little plants.

Date(s): Saturday 10 March 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Pitsford Water Nature Reserve

Trainer(s): Rachel Carter

C Fungi and Foray

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.

Date(s): Saturday 6 October 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Gamlingay Wood

Trainer(s): Peter Walker

Botany

N Winter Tree Identification

One of the best times to carry out tree/woodland survey or monitoring is during the winter. This workshop is an introduction to the skills and terms required for winter identification, using such features as bark, buds, plant habit and so forth. These skills are also invaluable for those carrying out practical woodland work in winter.

Date(s): Saturday 18 February 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Lings

Trainer(s): Matt Jackson

N Introduction to Wildflower Identification

This workshop aims to familiarise participants with fundamental botanical terms in the course of learning the different ways in which plants can be identified. Practical fieldwork will involve visiting Old Sulehay nature reserve, where many of the spring woodland flowers should be at their best.

Date(s): Saturday 21 April 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Old Sulehay

Trainer(s): Neil Crossman



N Daisies, Dandelions and Thistles

The daisy family is a very large one, with more than one hundred genera alone in the British flora. This workshop will concentrate on some of the look-alike species that can present identification problems, including various thistles, mayweeds and all-yellow composites.

Date(s): Saturday 28 July 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Old Sulehay

Trainer(s): Neil Crossman

C Aquatic Plants

Aquatic plants are notoriously difficult to identify, partly because the same species can be so variable in morphology due to depth and flow. This course will focus on the floating and submerged species typical of lowland eastern England, but will take account of those emergent species that may be present only in floating or submerged forms.

The course will give guidance in the identification, sampling/survey and ecology of the aquatic flora, and include both illustrated talks and practical fieldwork.

Date(s): Sunday 19 August 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Ramsey Heights/Woodwalton Fen

Trainer(s): Owen Mountford

C Rushes and Woodrushes

These narrow-leaved plants with tiny brownish flowers are often overlooked by beginner botanists, or confused with grasses or sedges. But they are actually very distinctive with a little practice, almost all the local species are easy to identify in the field. Only about eight of the 27 British rushes, and four of the nine wood-rushes are at all frequent in our area, and most can be recognised even when not flowering or fruiting. So, they are much easier to learn than the more diverse grasses and sedges, and they form a significant element of our wetlands and grasslands, so are well worth getting to know.

Date(s): Sunday 16 September 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Fulbourn Fen

Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

C Umbellifers

Cow-parsley on road verges, or hogweed and wild carrot in meadows, are very familiar, but the umbellifers have a reputation for being 'difficult', because they all look alike (at least when crowded together in illustrated floras!). In fact, the members of this distinctive family are readily separated on closer examination, even without ripe fruits. By the end of the day you should be able to identify all the common species in our area. The group contains several useful indicator species, especially in wetland habitats and grassland, so are helpful in assessing habitats.

Date(s): Sunday 8 July 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Woodwalton Fen

Trainer(s): Brian Eversham

B Introduction to Wildflower Identification

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.

Date(s): Saturday 14 July 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Priory Country Park

Trainer(s): Brian Eversham



C Identification of Grasses

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.

Date(s): Saturday 7 July 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Ramsey Heights/Woodwalton Fen

Trainer(s): Brian Davis

Practical Skills

C Hedgelaying Weekend

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.

Date(s) and timings:

Sat 28 January 2012 (10am – 4pm)

Sun 29 January 2012 (10am – 4pm)

Venue: Grafham Water

Trainer(s): Aidan Matthews

2 days for **£45**

N Sheep Handling for Beginners

A one-day course aimed at novices and less experienced livestock volunteers and assistants, giving the basic skills to restrain and handle sheep. This course will include how to tell the age of a sheep, condition assessment, foot trimming, best practice for vaccinations and worming and how to correctly use a halter.

Date(s): Saturday 21 April 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Old Sulehay

Trainer(s): Cathy Wainwright

C Charcoal Burning

Discover the process of producing lumpwood charcoal. Examine the history of charcoal use and production. Learn how this process affected the landscape and preserved the existence of our ancient woodland blocks. Get hands on with the work of preparing, loading, firing and sealing a 1.8m charcoal ring kiln and learn how to make your own charcoal in an oil barrel. Discuss the opening of the kiln, bagging and marketing of the lumpwood charcoal to the local community.

Date(s): Saturday 12 May 2012

Timings: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Grafham Water

Trainer(s): Aidan Matthews

Beginning with Landscape

C Beginning with Landscape: Geology

An exploration of the ways in which landscapes are formed and the effect that their character has on their consequent wildlife biodiversity. Although the focus will be on local landscapes, the general links between geology and wildlife worldwide will be covered briefly. Includes a look at the formation of the underlying rocks and landforms as well as examples of rock types.

Date(s) and timings:

Thursday 2 August 2012 (7pm – 9pm)

Thursday 9 August 2012 (7pm – 9pm)

Venue: Cambourne

Trainer(s): Christine Donnelly

2 sessions for **£18**

