



Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire  
Peterborough



# 2010 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.

Colour Code:

- Practical skills
- Botany
- Vertebrates
- Invertebrates
- Beginning with Wildlife
- Lower Plants and Fungi
- Habitat Management

County Code:

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

## **B** Sheep Management

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.

**Date(s):** Saturday 17 April 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Pegsdon Hills  
**Trainer(s):** Graham Bellamy and Nick Kiddy

## **N** Wildflowers of Woodland

This workshop will look at some of the woodland wildflowers which occur in the county, both the common and not easily recognised. Habitat preference of certain species will be shown and information given on what can be done to protect and help them. The workshop is designed for people who would like to learn how to identify species in the field.

**Date(s):** Sunday 18 April 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Bedford Purlieus  
**Trainer(s):** Brian Laney

## **C** Water Voles

A workshop to introduce participants to the natural history and field signs of the water vole. What caused their decline and what can be done about it? Plus a field visit to look for evidence of water vole activity in the Cambourne/Cambridge area.

**Date(s):** Saturday 24 April 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Cambourne  
**Trainer(s):** Ruth Hawksley and Iain Webb

## **C** 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:** Thu 6 May 2010 (7pm – 9pm), Sat 8 May 2010 (8am – 12pm), Thu 13 May 2010 (7pm – 9pm), Sat 15 May 2010 (8am – 12pm)  
**Venue:** Cambourne  
**Trainer(s):** Henry Stanier and Christine Donnelly

Whole series for **£40**

**Protecting wildlife  
close to home**

## C Beginning with Bats

Explore the natural history 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 and gain experience in using ultrasound detectors to 'listen' to bat echolocation.

**Date(s):** Saturday 8 May 2010

**Timings:** 5pm – 10.30pm

**Venue:** Buff Wood

**Trainer(s):** Henry Stanier and Christine Donnelly

## C Water Bug Identification

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 15 May 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Ramsey Heights

**Trainer(s):** Sheila Brooke

## C Beginning with Cambridgeshire Wildlife

Bringing the local landscape alive for those new to wildlife and conservation. This natural history of Cambridgeshire includes presentations on what makes the county so special and also how, when and where to discover the annual wildlife highlights. Learn and explore your countryside in the company of professional wildlife guides.

**Date(s):** Sunday 16 May 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Cambourne

**Trainer(s):** Henry Stanier and Christine Donnelly

## N Birdsong Identification

Designed for those developing their birdsong ID skills, this will focus on species with similar songs, including Blackcap and Garden warbler, Chaffinch and Willow warbler, and Lesser and Common whitethroat. As well as a morning session outdoors, the programme will include listening to high quality recordings indoors, allowing participants to get to grips with the structure of the songs.

**Date(s):** Sunday 6 June 2010

**Timings:** 8am – 2pm

**Venue:** Old Sulehay

**Trainer(s):** Henry Stanier and Phil Rudkin

## N Beetles Associated with Deadwood

Beetles dependent for part of their life cycle on standing or fallen dead wood are termed 'saproxylics' and are valuable as indicators of age and quality of woodland & parkland sites. Amongst their number are some of our rarest beetles in the British Isles. The course will involve sampling using beating, sweeping and handsearching followed by identification and discussion of assessment procedures.

**Date(s):** Saturday 12 June 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Old Sulehay

**Trainer(s):** Tony Drane

## C Dragonfly Larvae Identification

A beginner's guide to identification of dragonfly and damselfly larvae to genus level, including a plenary session with the microscope-TV link and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site. – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

**Date(s):** Saturday 12 June 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Wicken Fen

**Trainer(s):** Henry Curry and Henry Stanier

## C Willows, Sallows and Osiers

Willows are our most important family of wetland trees and shrubs. Often considered a difficult group, a single day is sufficient to become familiar with the principle species and common hybrids in our area. By looking first at samples, a simple-to-use key to the local species should enable participants to identify most species quickly and easily.

**Date(s):** Saturday 19 June 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Cambourne

**Trainer(s):** Brian Eversham

## N Beginning with Northamptonshire Wildlife

Bringing the local landscape alive for those new to wildlife and conservation. This natural history of Northamptonshire includes presentations on what makes the county so special and also how, when and where to discover the annual wildlife highlights. Learn and explore your countryside in the company of professional wildlife guides.

**Date(s):** Sunday 20 June 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Bradlaugh Fields

**Trainer(s):** Henry Stanier and Christine Donnelly

## C Identifying Sedges and their Allies

A very important family in temperate wetlands; this workshop will concentrate on the true sedges (Carex genus). Many of the species are useful as indicators of habitat quality, not only in wet grasslands, fens and mires but also in drier grassland types, woodlands etc.

**Date(s):** Sunday 27 June 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Ramsey Heights

**Trainer(s):** Owen Mountford

### Additional workshop

## P Beginning with Peterborough Wildlife

Bringing the local landscape alive for those new to wildlife and conservation. This natural history of Peterborough includes presentations on what makes the area so special and also how, when and where to discover the annual wildlife highlights. Learn and explore your countryside in the company of professional wildlife guides. With support from Peterborough City Council and DCLG Housing Growth Fund.

**Date(s):** Sunday 27 June 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Barnack Hills and Hollows

**Trainer(s):** Henry Stanier and Christine Donnelly

## N Plant Galls

A general introduction to the study of Plant Galls. The morning session will be indoors, studying "what is a gall", looking at some specimens and at the books available for identification of the gall causers. After lunch we will go hunting for galls in the wild, around Lings House.

**Date(s):** Saturday 3 July 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Lings

**Trainer(s):** Sean Karley

## C Introducing the Dragonfly

Specifically designed for the beginner, this course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification, including a plenary session with the Microscope-TV link and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

**Date(s):** Saturday 3 July 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Wicken Fen

**Trainer(s):** Ruary Mackenzie Dodds

## C Dragonflies and Waterplants

The aim of this course is for participants to be able to identify common species of adult dragonflies and water plants. There will be plenary sessions using colour photo presentations and water plant collections, the 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 4 July 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Wicken Fen  
**Trainer(s):** Stuart Irons and Karen Buckley

## N Identifying Mints and Figworts

This workshop will aim to get participants familiar with a representative range of species within two distinctive and characterful plant families: Figworts (eg mulleins, speedwells, toadflaxes, eyebrights) and Mints (eg woundworts, dead-nettles, basil, calamints, claries). Comparisons will be made with other families and the use of identification keys will be encouraged. Suitable for beginners and improvers.

**Date(s):** Saturday 10 July 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Old Sulehay  
**Trainer(s):** Neil Crossman

## C Butterflies, Ecology and Habitat Management

This course aims to provide an introduction to the ecology of British butterflies with a special focus on those species that occur (or have occurred) in Cambridgeshire. This workshop is aimed primarily at those who already have some interest and knowledge of butterflies and want to increase their knowledge.

**Date(s):** Saturday 10 July 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Brampton Wood  
**Trainer(s):** Nick Greatorex-Davies

### Additional workshop

## C 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):** Sunday 11 July 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Ramsey Heights  
**Trainer(s):** Brian Davis

## C Identification and Ecology of Ants

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 and are also useful in habitat monitoring; they are most sensitive to micro-climates and illustrate the success of grassland and heathland management.

**Date(s):** Saturday 17 July 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Cherry Hinton  
**Trainer(s):** Brian Eversham

## C Dragonfly Larva (Advanced)

The aim of the course is for participants to further their dragonfly larva identification skills and provide a deeper understanding of the anatomy, physiology and ecology of this important stage in the dragonfly life-cycle. The course will consist of classroom work, one-to-one guidance, self-study periods, and, depending on the weather, fieldwork looking at habitats, larvae and exuviae – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

**Date(s):** Saturday 24 July 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 5pm  
**Trainer(s):** Henry Curry and Henry Stanier

## 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 24 July 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Priory Country Park  
**Trainer(s):** Brian Eversham

## C Introducing the Dragonfly

Specifically designed for the beginner, this course includes dragonfly biology, ecology and identification, including a plenary session with the Microscope-TV link and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site – PLEASE BOOK THROUGH THE DRAGONFLY PROJECT.

**Date(s):** Sunday 25 July 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Wicken Fen  
**Trainer(s):** Ruary Mackenzie Dodds

## P Beginning with Bats

Explore the natural history 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 and gain experience in using ultrasound detectors to 'listen' to bat echolocation.

**Date(s):** Saturday 7th August 2010  
**Timings:** 5pm – 10.30pm  
**Venue:** Burghley Park  
**Trainer(s):** Henry Stanier and Christine Donnelly

## B Grassland Management

How does the Wildlife Trust manage its wildlife grasslands? How do we manage grasslands important for orchids, butterflies and birds and are the requirements compatible? We will cover the fundamental issues of management of unimproved grassland for wildlife and will outline the types of grassland we manage, the importance of geology, soils and nutrient levels. Also we will look at the species that are present and how they respond to different management regimes.

**Date(s):** Saturday 14 August 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Pegsdon Hills  
**Trainer(s):** Graham Bellamy and Colin Lucas

## B Beginning with Bedfordshire Wildlife

Bringing the local landscape alive for those new to wildlife and conservation. This natural history of Bedfordshire includes presentations on what makes the county so special and also how, when and where to discover the annual wildlife highlights. Learn and explore your countryside in the company of professional wildlife guides.

**Date(s):** Sunday 5 September 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Cooper's Hill  
**Trainer(s):** Henry Stanier and Christine Donnelly

## C Pond Dipping for Adults

Dipping in ponds with a net is a well-known activity for children but it need not be exclusively practised by them, adults can get a lot out of this exploration too. 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):** Sunday 12 September 2010  
**Timings:** 10am – 4pm  
**Venue:** Cambourne  
**Trainer(s):** Richard Chadd

## 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 16 October 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Gamlingay Wood

**Trainer(s):** Peter Walker

## N Identifying Snails and Slugs

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):** Saturday 23 October 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Old Sulehay

**Trainer(s):** Brian Eversham

## C Woodland Management

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 woodland nature reserves.

**Date(s):** Saturday 30 October 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Brampton Wood

**Trainer(s):** Lorna Parker and Matt Hamilton

### Additional workshop

## 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 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. The early start is to see what's 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).

**Dates and timings:** Sat 30 Oct 2010

(5pm – 6.30pm) Sun 31 Oct 2010 (8am – 2pm)

**Venue:** Ramsey Heights

**Trainer(s):** Peter Pilbeam and members of the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group

## N Drystone Walling

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.

**Date(s):** Sunday 7 November 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Old Sulehay

**Trainer(s):** Lisa Adams

## C Woodland Linkage Projects

Particularly suitable for nature reserve wardens, habitat management team volunteers and Ecology Group members, this workshop explains the reasons behind how and why we are linking up our woodland nature reserves and the steps we take in creating woodland habitats. This course is designed to complement the workshop on woodland management.

**Date:** Saturday 13 November 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Buff Wood

**Trainer(s):** Sian Williams and Jane Pearman

## N Coppicing

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.

**Date(s):** Sunday 21 November 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Short Wood

**Trainer(s):** Lisa Adams

## N Hedgelaying

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):** Sunday 5 December 2010

**Timings:** 10am – 4pm

**Venue:** Stanford Reservoir

**Trainer(s):** Lisa Adams

# Booking Details

### Before you book

- Contact Juliette Butler, Wildlife Training Workshops Officer either by phone or e-mail to check if places are available (Tues, Wed and Fri 9am – 2.30pm).
- Telephone: **01604 405285** or e-mail: **trainingworkshops@wildlifebcnp.org**
- To book onto a Dragonfly workshop please contact The Dragonfly Project telephone 01733 204286 or e-mail: **courses@dragonflyproject.org.uk**
- Note that most workshops include an indoor session and a field trip to a nature reserve. If you have any concerns about the amount of walking involved, please discuss with the Wildlife Training Workshops Officer.

### Fees

£28	Standard workshops	Free	Ecology Group Members
£20	"Beginning With" workshops	Free	Reserve Wardens
£115	Professionals	Free	Watch Leaders
		Free	Key Volunteers

Some workshops are charged at a different rate, please check events descriptions

### To confirm a booking

Please send a completed booking form (downloadable from our website or contact Juliette Butler for a form) and either a cheque payable to The Wildlife Trust or telephone with debit/credit card details. Address as follows: **Wildlife Training Workshops, The Wildlife Trust, Lings House, Billing Lings, Northampton NN3 8BE.**

### After a booking

- You will receive confirmation of booking either by e-mail or post.
- Programmes and location details are sent out two weeks before the workshop.
- Refunds are only available if cancellations are received **at least one month** before the workshop.