

## Bird ID for BTO Surveys Training Courses



These courses are designed to help you identify the birds that you are likely to encounter in the course of a day's birdwatching or surveying. You will be guided on how to identify birds by sight and sound and learn about the differing habitats that they frequent. As well as being very informative, our courses are relaxed and we encourage you to feel comfortable enough to ask questions and join group discussions throughout the day. We will divide our time between both watching and listening to birds out in the field and working indoors reviewing and discussing what we have collectively learned. You will observe as many species as possible, and our venues are chosen for their variety of habitats and birds. We will also introduce you to a variety of media that will enhance your course and enable you to continue learning afterwards.

As a group, we will explore how our records can feed into BTO surveys and discover which BTO surveys are suitable for our individual levels of confidence and experience. You certainly do not need to be able to identify all species to take part in a survey, indeed one of the best ways to learn bird ID is to DO a survey! These courses are suitable if you are a complete beginner to birdwatching, but they will be most valuable if you can at least identify the most common garden birds by sight already. We will start by identifying birds by sight, concentrating on the 50 most familiar (garden/farmland/woodland) birds, teaching you to separate confusing species. We will then move on to introducing identifying birds by sound (songs and calls). Classic song confusion pairs, such as Blackcap/Garden Warbler and Reed Warbler/Sedge Warbler will be tackled, along with familiar and not so familiar calls. The repertoire of species will also be expanded, making the most of the species likely to be present at each venue.

### What's included in the price?

You will be provided with pre-course information including directions on how to find the venue. Once there you will receive a set of bird ID CDs and all course materials, including a course booklet, to take away. On 1-day workshops tea, coffee and biscuits will also be provided, but you will need to bring your own packed lunch (some venues may offer a café facility, please check availability on booking). Residential courses offer the above with the addition of full board, from dinner on the first night through to lunch on the final day.

### Other useful information

These courses do involve some walking around the venue, but will not be strenuous. Strong, comfortable walking boots or wellies are recommended. It is important that you bring your own pair of binoculars. If you are borrowing a pair from a friend, 8x30 or 8x40 are ideal for general birdwatching - the first figure is the magnification and the second the diameter of the larger lens in millimetres. Do not bring a pair with magnification over 10x - these are too heavy. Most importantly, check that you can see clearly through them and there is no distortion. A pen/pencil is also recommended.

For more information about the courses see [www.bto.org/training](http://www.bto.org/training) or contact Su Gough ([su.gough@bto.org](mailto:su.gough@bto.org) or 'phone 01842 750050).

To book a place contact Anne Cotton ([anne.cotton@bto.org](mailto:anne.cotton@bto.org) or 'phone 01786 466560).

BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU.  
Registered Charity Number 216652