



BIRDWATCHING for BEGINNERS

At Yorkshire Coast Nature we love to share our enthusiasm for the birds and wildlife around us

September to November 2026 Course Details

Who are the courses for?

This 8-week course is for beginner and intermediate level Birdwatchers; those of you who have developed a curiosity about the birds you see in your garden or your local park, and want to know more.

It is designed to give you a better understanding of a variety of birds and their chosen habitats. The courses give you confidence in how to spot and identify them, and a greater understanding of the resources that exist to help you pursue this interest on your own. Who knows, you may even get hooked!

Who will be teaching me?

The course will include both indoor sessions, learning the basic skills and longer, outdoor sessions where you can put your new found knowledge and skills into practice. Our expert tutor Margaret Boyd will provide you with all the guidance you need. Margaret is a qualified teacher who started birding at a very young age. She has been sharing her passion for the subject as one of the YCN guiding team for many years. You can see Margaret's profile [here](#).

What will I learn?

The course will cover:

- Bird identification skills
- How to find birds in a variety of habitats
- Fieldcraft – top tips that you won't find in books
- Equipment - and how to use it
- Parts of a bird – their topography
- Bird sounds
- How to use resources such as field guides
- An introduction to bird conservation

How big is the group?

At Yorkshire Coast Nature we want to give you the best experience possible, so all our wildlife trips are run in small groups. This course is no exception. Our maximum group size will be 8. This guarantees that you will have a good birding experience both in the classroom and outside 'in the field'.

When are the sessions?

We will be running one course starting at the end of March 2026. You can see the dates and times in the table below.

September 14th to 2nd November 2026 Birdwatching Course

Spring course		Mondays – daytime		
Session	day	Date	time	venue
Week 1	MON	14/09/2026	10am – 12pm	Indoor venue
Week 2	MON	21/09/2026	9am-1pm	outdoor venue
Week 3	MON	28/09/2026	10am – 12pm	Indoor venue
Week 4	MON	05/10/2026	9am-1pm	outdoor venue
Week 5	MON	12/10/2026	10am – 12pm	Indoor venue
Week 6	MON	19/10/2026	9am-1pm	outdoor venue
Week 7	MON	26/10/2026	10am – 12pm	indoor venue
Week 8	MON	02/11/2026	9am – 1pm	outdoor venue

Where will the course take place?

The indoor sessions will be in York, close to the city centre. Our outdoor sessions will take place at a variety of suitable venues around the York area that are accessible by car and public transport.

What are the costs?

The cost for the course is **£375** per person

Costs include:

- Expert tuition and bird guide
- 8 sessions – indoor and outdoor (a total of 24 hours tuition)
- All course materials including a free birding notebook
- Free use of binoculars if needed
- YCN will make a donation of 5% of the course income to a local bird conservation project.

Costs do not include:

- Transport
- Bird reserve entrance fees (if applicable)
- Parking fees
- Food & refreshments

You will find binoculars very useful on this course, but don't worry if you haven't got any. We will be discussing the use of equipment and we have high quality binoculars available for the outdoor sessions if you require them.

If you have any further questions, please email Richard.baines@yorkshirecoastnature.co.uk or call on 07747753260

You will receive further details, how to find us and what to bring on booking.

We look forward to meeting you.