



BIRDWATCHING for BEGINNERS

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

April – May 2024 Course Details – Beginners and Intermediate – Two Separate Courses

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!

Beginners

Are you interested in the birds around you but don't know where to start? Join our beginner's course to find out the best equipment to get you started, the best places to see common birds and the top tips of how to identify birds in your local environment. Whether it's sorting out the thrushes from the blackbirds or making sure you know a chaffinch from a bullfinch we will take a steady approach to birdwatching and help you start your new found hobby"

Intermediate

Have you started birdwatching recently but still unsure of going out on your own? You've picked up the basics but want to know more about the different families of birds, their habitats and how key identification features? Join our intermediate group and we will support you to delve deeper into the lives of the birds around you, finding out more about their adaptations, their behaviours and their songs & calls

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 two concurrent courses starting in April 2024 - exactly the same content but at different times of the day. We have a daytime only course and, for those of you with work or other commitments, we are running an evening classroom session with field visits on alternate weekends. You can see the dates and times in the table below.

If you are interested in joining us, please check the dates and times and choose the course that best suits your availability.

April 8th - May 26th Course Dates - Intermediate Course

COURSE A week days – evenings				
Session	day	date	time	venue
Week 1	MON	08/04/24	7- 9pm	Indoor venue
Week 2	SUN	14/04/24	9am-1pm	outdoor venue
Week 3	MON	22/04/24	7- 9pm	Indoor venue
Week 4	SUN	28/04/24	9am-1pm	outdoor venue
Week 5	MON	06/05/24	7- 9pm	Indoor venue
Week 6	SUN	12/05/24	9am-1pm	outdoor venue
Week 7	MON	20/05/24	7- 9pm	Indoor venue
Week 8	SUN	26/05/24	9am-1pm	outdoor venue

April 8th – May 27th Beginners Course

COURSE B week days - daytime				
Session	day	date	time	venue
Week 1	MON	08/04/24	10am-12	Indoor venue
Week 2	MON	15/04/24	9am-1pm	outdoor venue
Week 3	MON	22/04/24	10am-12	Indoor venue
Week 4	MON	29/04/24	9am-1pm	outdoor venue
Week 5	MON	06/05/24	10am-12	Indoor venue
Week 6	MON	13/05/24	9am-1pm	Outdoor venue
Week 7	MON	20/05/24	10am-12	Indoor venue
Week 8	MON	27/05/24	9am-1pm	outdoor venue

Where will the course take place?

The indoor sessions will be in York, in the Harriet Room, a spacious modern building near the entrance to [York Cemetery](#) and close to the city centre. The venue is light, has good facilities and ventilation. There are also several bus routes which stop outside the cemetery.

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 **£295** per person

Costs include:

Expert tuition and bird guide

8 sessions over 8 weeks – indoor and outdoor (a total of 24 hours tuition)

All course materials including a free birding notebook

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

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.

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