

**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

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| **Course Title:** An Introduction to Birds and Birdwatching | | **Day/Date/Year:**  Commencing Tuesday 15 January 2019 |
| **Start Time:**  7pm | | **Finish Time:** 9pm |
| **Course Tutor:** | Mike Russell | |
| **Course description and subjects covered** | A 5-month course involving both indoor sessions and outside field trips that visit many top bird sites in Sussex. The course covers identification techniques, habitats, bird conservation and populations, migration and birdsong. Suitable for beginners and those with a little knowledge. | |
| **Meeting point / Venue:** | Classroom, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD. | |
| **Other sites to be visited:** | Various venues and reserves in Sussex.  The course is taught through a mixture of classroom sessions, held on Tuesday evenings at Woods Mill and field trips at weekends and, as spring progresses in the evening as well. Most of the sessions will be 2 hours in length but some of the field trips will be 4 hours, the total duration of the course being the equivalent of 20, 2 hour sessions. It extends over a period of six months so that it covers winter birds, spring migration and into early summer and the start of the nesting season.  All evening sessions will be from 19.00 - 21.00 and field visits will be on Saturday mornings, times to be advised.  Please see programme dates, times and venues on following sheet  **Subjects covered include:**  Techniques in identification  Field guides/equipment  Habitats  Surveying and recording  Attracting birds to the garden  Migration  How to identify birds by song  Field visits | |
| **What to bring:** | **For Indoor sessions:** notebook, pen/pencil, field guide (to be discussed at first meeting)  **For field trips:** binoculars, suitable clothing and footwear for time of year, drinks and snacks, (other specific items will be identified during course) | |
| **Other Information:** | Tea/coffee provided for indoor meetings  Toilet facilities & wheelchair access available for evening meetings and some field trips (to be advised).  Car parking charges may apply at some sites  Entrance fee required for non-RSPB members on first field trip. | |
| **Public Transport:** | No public transport to Woods Mill in the evening. | |
| **Accessibility:** | Generally you need to be able to comfortably walk for up to 3-4 hours. Information and requirements on site conditions will be provided prior to each meeting, but there will be occasional stiles, uneven ground, moderate slopes and they will vary according to weather conditions at the time. | |

**PROGRAMME DATES**

**AN INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS AND BIRDWATCHING 2019**

**SESSION DATE TOPIC**

1 Tues Jan 15 Introduction to Course

2 Tues Jan 29 Techniques in Identification

3 & 4 Sat Feb 2 Visit to Pulborough Brooks

5 Tues Feb 12 Habitats of Sussex

6 Tues Feb 26 Surveying and Recording Birds

7 Sat March 2 Field Trip, Newhaven

8 Tues March 26 Garden Birds

9 Sat March 28 Field Visit, Henfield

10 Tues April 2 Migration

11 & 12 Sat April 6 Field trip to Seaford Head

13 Tues April 16 Birdsong (1)

14 Tuesday April 23 Birdsong (2)

15 & 16 Sat April 27 Loder Valley Reserve

17 & 18 Sat May 4 Pagham Harbour

19 Tues May 21 Course Summary/Local Walk

20 Tues June 4 Field Trip Old Lodge, Ashdown Forest

Tuesday evening sessions are for two hours, starting at 7pm except the final session which stars at 6.30pm. Most Saturday sessions start at 9.30am and are either two or four hours in length.

The tutor reserves the right to alter the location of the field trips due to changes in any circumstances prevailing at the time.