

**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

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| **Course Title:** An Introduction to Birds and Birdwatching | | **Day/Date/Year:**  Commencing Tuesday 21 January 2020  Saturday sessions various times & locations |
| **Start Time:**  Tuesday Evenings: 7pm | | **Finish Time:** Tuesday Evenings: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.  <https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/visit/woods-mill> | |
| **Other sites to be visited:** | Various venues and reserves in Sussex (see list below)  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 x 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 2020**

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| **SESSION** | **DATE** | **TOPIC** |
| 1 | Tues 21 Jan | Introduction to Course |
| 2 | Tues 4 Feb | Techniques in Identification |
| 3 & 4 | Sat 8 Feb | Visit to Pulborough Brooks |
| 5 | Tues 11 Feb | Habitats of Sussex |
| 6 | Tues 25 Feb | Surveying and Recording Birds |
| 7 | Sat 29 Feb | Field Trip tbc |
| 8 | Tues 10 March | Garden Birds |
| 9 | Sat 14 March | Field Visit, Henfield |
| 10 | Tues 31 March | Migration |
| 11 | Tues 7 April | Birdsong (1) |
| 12 & 13 | Sat 11 April | Field Trip to Seaford Head |
| 14 & 15 | Sat 18 April | Field Trip to Loder Valley |
| 16 | Tues 21 April | Birdsong (2) |
| 17 & 18 | Sat 9 May | Pagham Harbour |
| 19 | Tues 19 May | Course Summary/Local Walk |
| 20 | Tues 2 June | Field Trip Old Lodge, Ashdown Forest |

Tuesday evening sessions (indicated in green) are for two hours and held at Woods Mill, starting at 7pm (except the final session which starts at 6pm and will be a field trip).

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.