**Introduction to Birds & Birdwatching**

**Details**

- **When**
  - Tues & Sats 13 Jan to 26 May
  - Tues 7pm - 9pm, Sats various

- **Where**
  - Classroom, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD

- **Cost**
  - £144
  - £124

**Description**

A 5-month course combining indoor sessions and outside field trips visiting top bird sites in Sussex.

Subjects covered include:
- Techniques in identification
- Field guides/equipment
- Habitats
- Surveying and recording
- Conservation and populations
- Attracting birds to the garden
- Migration
- How to identify birds by song

Suitable for beginners and those with a little knowledge.

**What we’ll do**

The course is taught through a mixture of classroom sessions and field trips on Saturday mornings and as spring progresses in the evening as well. Most sessions will run for 2 hours, but some field trips will run for 4 hours. The total duration of the course being the equivalent of 20, 2 hour sessions. Programme topics & dates as below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues Jan 13th</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tues Jan 20th</td>
<td>Techniques in Identification</td>
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<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Sat Jan 24th</td>
<td>Visit to Pulborough Brooks</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tues Feb 24th</td>
<td>Habitats of Sussex</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tues March 3rd</td>
<td>Surveying and Recording Birds</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Sat March 7th</td>
<td>Field trip to Newhaven</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Tues March 17th</td>
<td>Garden Birds</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sat March 21st</td>
<td>Field trip to Henfield</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tues March 31st</td>
<td>Migration</td>
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**Suitability and other info**

This course is designed primarily for adults; participants aged 14 to 16 years must be accompanied by an adult. Tea/coffee provided for indoor meetings; toilet facilities available for evening meetings and some field trips (to be advised). Car parking charges at some sites. Entrance fee required for non-RSPB members on 3/1/15 field trip.

**What to bring**

Indoor sessions: notebook, pen/pencil, field guide (to be discussed at first meeting). Field trips: binoculars, suitable clothing and footwear for time of year, drinks and snacks.

**Access**

Please notify us if you have any medical conditions or mobility issues that may affect your attendance on the course. Generally you need to be able to comfortably walk for up to 3-4 hours. Most field trips are on good walking conditions and there may be some moderate hills. There will be some stiles. Wheelchair accessible for evening meetings but not all field trips.

**Getting there**

Woods Mill, Shoreham Road, Henfield BN5 9SD

1.5 miles south of Henfield village on the A2037, 0.5 miles north of Small Dole.

**Public transport**

No public transport to Woods Mill in the evening.

**The tutor**

Mike Russell has worked for the Trust since 1985 and in addition to organising and teaching courses, also leads wildlife holidays for Wildlife Travel, a company set up in 1988 to initially run holidays worldwide for members of the Wildlife Trust but now open to anyone. The Company donates all its profits to the Wildlife Trusts.