



BIRD CAMPS 2022



ENGLAND • WALES • NORTHERN IRELAND •
SCOTLAND (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SOC)



ABOUT BTO YOUTH

BTO Youth is the youth branch of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). BTO is a UK charity focusing on understanding birds and, in particular, how and why bird populations are changing. Our vision is of a world where people are inspired by birds and informed by science. Our Youth programme aims to engage young people with nature and science in a safe, inclusive and accessible way.

WHY JOIN CAMP?

Our Bird Camps are a great way to get started on your journey with birdwatching, or to develop your skills if you are already a budding ornithologist. You will meet a group of like-minded young people with an interest in nature, birds and science, and you will meet a host of staff and volunteers from the BTO and our partners. Our camp programme includes lots of different activities, focusing (of course!) on birds, but also on art, mindfulness, and answering scientific questions.

THE CAMPS

We run three Bird Camps in England (20–22 May), Wales (1–3 July) and Northern Ireland (17–19 June), and in Scotland we are working in partnership with our friends at the Scottish Ornithologists' Club for a fourth in East Lothian (3–5 June). Camps run from Friday evening to Sunday evening and are all-inclusive. We also provide transport options, and we can help with equipment if you don't have everything you need.

Each of the camps will follow a similar itinerary, although this will vary based on location and the weather. A more detailed itinerary will be shared with successful camp applicants closer to the time.

Friday:

(Late afternoon) Arrival at camp, getting to know each other, health & safety, evening activity and introduction to our arts activity.

Saturday:

Day-trip to local nature reserve(s), learning about BTO surveys and bird identification, mindfulness, creative workshop, evening activity (e.g. campfire, looking for bats or stargazing).

Sunday:

Ringling demo (weather-permitting), learning to identify birds by song, final presentations & pledges.

HOW TO APPLY

Just follow the instructions on the form! You can either complete it digitally, or print it and send it back. **Feel free to be creative; draw, paint, or record a video if you like** and send it with your form. If you need any help with your application, email us, or join one of our Q&A sessions as advertised on the website.

WHO CAN CAMP?

Our camps are open to young people, resident in the UK, who are:

- At the time of camp, in secondary school or college and **under 18 years old** (10–16 in Scotland)
- Enthusiastic about nature (but you do not have to be an expert!)



WHERE ARE THE CAMPS?

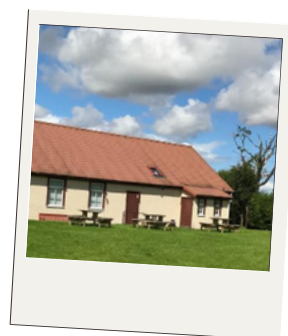
17–19 June
NORTHERN IRELAND
Castle Ward



in partnership with



3–5 June
SCOTLAND
Haddington*



1–3 July
WALES
Stackpole



20–22 May
ENGLAND
Thetford



*to apply for Scotland, visit bit.ly/ScottishBirdCamp



COST + EQUIPMENT

All Bird Camps are completely **free** of charge. We do this because it is important to us to make our camps accessible to any young person. However, if you are financially able to support us in running our camps, we always welcome donations.

You will receive a full packing list before going on camp, but a key piece of equipment for Bird Camp is binoculars. If you don't have a pair, let us know in your application so we can lend you some, or you can apply for our Equipment Donation Scheme (www.bto.org/equipment). If you apply, let us know which Bird Camp you're attending.

GETTING TO CAMP

Our camps take place near nature reserves and green spaces, and may not be accessible by public transport. To help you get there, we'll be organising pick-ups from different cities near the camp, but you can also be dropped off directly at camp if you prefer, just let us know in your application form.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at all camps will be shared, either in indoor dormitories (Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales), or in large bell tents (England). Staff fully DBS-checked (through Disclosure Scotland and AccessNI in Scotland and Northern Ireland, respectively) and trained in safeguarding will always be on site overnight and available to the campers.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding participants is of paramount importance to us. All of our staff and volunteers have completed safeguarding training and will be DBS checked and cleared. A Designated Safeguarding Lead will be present at each camp. BTO's Safeguarding Policy can be found on our website or by email our team at youth@bto.org. We will also provide a full risk assessment before the start of camp, including a COVID-19 risk assessment taking into consideration the most current advice from Government.

ACCESSIBILITY

We are committed to making all Bird Camps as accessible as possible. Our ambition is to support all aspiring young birders and nature enthusiasts to participate in our camps if they wish to. If you have any accessibility requirements or concerns you would like to discuss, please email us at youth@bto.org.

INCLUSIVITY

We want our camps to be a safe space for all participants, and so we ask everyone to abide by our Code of Conduct which will be shared in advance. **You do not need to be an experienced "birder"** or have spent lots of time in nature to apply; we will create a balanced group of experienced and newer naturalists and birdwatchers. We especially welcome applications from young people from underrepresented groups.





YOUR APPLICATION

Fill in this form with your parent(s)/carer(s) and make sure you fill in all parts. To apply for Scotland, visit bit.ly/ScottishBirdCamp.

YOUR INFORMATION

Full name:

Date of birth:

Gender: Female ☐ Male ☐ Non-binary ☐

Prefer to self-describe ☐

Pronouns:

Email address:

Postcode:

We use this information to determine which camp is closest to you.

School:

This is to confirm you are eligible for camp.

Do you have any accessibility needs?

Please note that our England camp will consist of camping in bell-tents and may therefore not be suitable for some physical needs.

Do you have any other needs?

This may include religious needs, learning needs, or supporting needs.

Are you applying with a friend?

If so, please write down their name here. We will try and place friends applying together at the same camp, but we cannot guarantee that both applicants are successful or placed together.



YOUR PARENT(S)/CARER(S)' INFORMATION

Full name:

Relationship to the applicant:

Email address:

Phone number:

Consent: ☐

By ticking the consent box I give BTO permission to store the data provided here as in line with [BTO's privacy policy](#). It means I also understand that, if successful, my child will be offered a place on BTO Bird Camp, fully funded.

THE CAMP

Which camp would you prefer to attend?

England ☐ Northern Ireland ☐ Wales ☐

If you are a Scottish resident, apply for the Scotland camp on the SOC website: bit.ly/ScottishBirdCamp

Where would you like to be picked up from?

Cambridge ☐ Bristol (for Wales) ☐ Cardiff ☐ Belfast ☐

I will be dropped off and picked up at camp ☐

Is there any reason you would not be able or comfortable to share accommodation?

Our camps are based on shared accommodation, and we will allocate campers to shared rooms or bell-tents based on gender and age. In exceptional circumstances we may be able to offer alternative accommodation, depending on the location.

How much experience do you feel you have with birdwatching?

We want to make sure Bird Camp is open to both experienced birders, and those who have only just started developing their interest in birds; experience is not a requirement, so there is no right or wrong answer!

Just starting out ☐ I know a fair bit ☐ Quite confident ☐ Pro-level ☐

Do you have a pair of binoculars to bring to camp?

If not, we can lend you some.

Yes ☐ No ☐

WHY YOU WANT TO COME TO CAMP

Tell us why you would like to come to BTO Bird Camp. (250 words max.)



Tell us a bit about your favourite animal, plant or green space. (150 words max.)

What are you hoping to learn or experience at camp? (150 words max.)



EQUALITY MONITORING FORM

This form is **optional** to fill in, but will help us better understand who is applying to our camps and abide by our Equality and Diversity aims. This information will be treated as strictly confidential and will not be stored after camp.

Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself? Please select all that apply.

Man (including trans man) ☐ Woman (including trans woman) ☐

Non-binary ☐ I prefer to self-describe ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Does the gender you live in match the gender you were assigned at birth?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Which of these best describes your ethnicity?

Asian / Asian British - Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - English	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British - Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British - Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British - Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - British	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - African	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - British	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Did you come to the UK as a refugee or asylum seeker?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Have you ever been, or are you, in local authority care??

Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

What is your age?

Did you receive free school meals at any point during your secondary education?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Don't know ☐

Which type of school did you attend for the majority of your time aged 10–18?

Non-selective state-run or state funded school / college ☐

Selective state-run or state funded school / college ☐

Independent / private or fee paying school / college ☐

Attended school outside the UK ☐

Don't know ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

How do you define your sexual orientation? Please elect all that apply.

Bi/bisexual ☐

Gay/lesbian ☐

Heterosexual/straight ☐

Queer ☐

Prefer to self-describe ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

Do you consider yourself to have a specific learning disability, other disability, impairment, long-term illness or health condition?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Don't know ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

If yes, please describe in the space below.

Which of the following best describes your religion, faith or belief?

Buddhist ☐

Christian ☐

Hindu ☐

Jewish ☐

Muslim ☐

Sikh ☐

Atheist ☐

Any other ☐

None ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

MADE POSSIBLE BY

The 2022 Bird Camps are made possible by the generous support of:

Cameron Besselka Trust

The Cameron Besselka Trust is a charity that has been set up in Cameron's memory to inspire young people to love and appreciate animals, in particular birds, nature, and our environment. By experiencing the outdoors first hand, teenagers can connect with nature and make a difference to our planet.

British Birds Charitable Trust

British Birds is a journal for everyone interested in the birds of the Western Palearctic. Published monthly since 1907, the journal contains a range of material on behaviour, conservation, distribution, ecology, identification, movements, status and taxonomy, as well as the latest news items and book reviews. British Birds is regarded as the British birdwatcher's journal of record, with regular reports on rare and scarce migrants, and rare breeding birds. All the main contributions are peer-reviewed, and the journal aims to interpret scientific research in an easily accessible way.

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte (1908-1985) established The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust in 1972 to support her personal interests which included her enjoyment of theatre, music and gardening, and, in particular, helping disadvantaged and disabled children. Today, the Trust continues her legacy through its three grant programmes: arts, medical welfare, and the environment.



www.cameronbesselka.com



www.britishbirds.co.uk



www.doylycartecharitabletrust.org