



INFORMATION

- Individuals and families are welcome. No experience required. Please dress appropriately for outdoor activities and bring your own refreshments.
- No dogs at events please.
- For further details contact the Heritage Office in Offaly County Council on **057 9346839** or email **heritage@offalycoco.ie**
- Please email **heritage@offalycoco.ie** if you would like reminders about events or if you would like to be notified about other Offaly heritage events.

Please submit your records to the National Biodiversity Data Site. This centre collates and monitors national information but also keeps your records for you!
www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/
 or download the Biodiversity Data Centre Free App.



Offaly County Council
 Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí

The Offaly Naturalists' Field Club Programme is an initiative of the Offaly Heritage Forum.

 www.offaly.ie/heritage

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
 The Heritage Council



OFFALY NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB 2017 EVENTS GUIDE



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SUNDAY 26 MARCH

IWT Reptile Surveyor Workshop

11am-3pm: Meet at Teach Lea, Boora
Morning session on Irish lizard identification and surveying, followed by an outdoor site visit.
Booking essential with conservation@iwt.ie or 01-8602839
Free of charge for IWT members/€5 for non members.
Leader: Kieran Flood

SATURDAY 1 APRIL

Bryophytes of Upland Blanket Bog & Associated Habitats

10.30am: Meet at the car park just on the Offaly side of Glendine Gap in the Slieve Blooms (Grid Ref. S230996; OSI Discovery Series map 54). Booking essential in case of change of plans due to weather. Bring refreshments.
Leaders: George Smith george.smith@blackthornecology.ie 086 1736075; Philip Perrin pperrin@botanicalenvironmental.com 087 2138499

SATURDAY 29 APRIL

Spring Migrant Walk

11am: Meet at Turraun car park
Leader: Alex Copland, BirdWatch Ireland

SUNDAY 7 MAY

International Dawn Chorus Day

4am: Meet at Lough Boora Discovery Park car park.
Refreshments available in café afterwards.
Leader: Ricky Whelan, BirdWatch Ireland

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY

Pullough Batlas Training

8.30pm: Meet at Pullough National School. Talk followed by training in recording and use of the bat detector.
See www.batconservationireland.org/get-involved
Leader: Tina Aughey, Bat Conservation Ireland

BATLAS 2020 a bat distribution programme is mapping the four most common bat species in Ireland. We need volunteers! With training and practice using a bat detector, volunteers will be allocated 10km squares to survey for common pipistrelles, soprano pipistrelle, Leisler's bat and Daubenton's bat. Surveying takes place from mid-May to mid-September.

THURSDAY 18 MAY

Observing Swifts in Daingean

7.30pm: Meet at the Square in Daingean.
Leader: Brian Caffrey, BirdWatch Ireland

SATURDAY 20 MAY

Foraging in Clara, 'Nibbling On Nature'

11am: Meet at Clara Bog Esker Car Park off the Tullamore Road at the Ashfield Turn, 3-4 hour forage. Bring lunch.
Leader: Forager Alison Delaney

MONDAY 22 MAY

Dipper Walk – to mark International Biodiversity Day

6-7.30pm: Camcor River Park, Birr – meet at the weir close to Oxmantown Bridge
Leader: Alex Copland, BirdWatch Ireland

SATURDAY 10 JUNE

Flowers of Pallas Lake

11am: Meet at Pallas Lake car park.
Leader: Fiona Devery

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

Follow up Batlas training

Short talk followed by revision field work.
8.30pm: Birr Outdoor Education Centre
Leader: Tina Aughey, Bat Conservation Ireland

SATURDAY 24 JUNE

Orchids & Wildflowers of Fynamore

11am: Meet at Fynamore (part of the Boora parklands). Bring refreshments.
Leader: Mark McCorry, Bord na Móna ecologist

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY

All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterways Survey Training

8.30pm: Meet at Clonbullogue Parish Hall, Clonbullogue. Training will be followed by the survey taking place on 2 nights of the surveyors choice in the month of August on a river or canal in your local area.
Leader: Tina Aughey, Bat Conservation Ireland

MONDAY 24 JULY TO FRIDAY 28 JULY

The Trees & Woods of Offaly: Past, Present & Future
John Feehan summer school **BOOKED OUT**

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST

Illustrated talk on 'Birds in Central Ireland'

25 years of bird reporting
7.30pm: Crank House, Banagher
Speaker: Stephen Heery

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST

Badger Watching

8-10pm: Meet at the Charleville Town Gates. Bring your own folding chair! Booking essential with heritage@offalycoco.ie
Leader: Colm Malone, NPWS

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST

The Irish Mountain Hare

3-6pm: Meet at Teach Lea, Boora for talk and walk to see hares in their natural habitat. Booking essential with heritage@offalycoco.ie.
Leader: Noel Bugler, NPWS

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

In Search of the Last Trilobites

11am: Meet at Derrinlough Briquette Factory for a short talk about this fossil followed by field work. Bring refreshments. Booking essential with heritage@offalycoco.ie.
Leader: John Feehan

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

Mosses and Liverworts of the Esker Riada

11am: Meet at Clara Bog Visitors' Centre. Bring lunch and a hand lens if you have one.
Leader: George Smith

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

The Secret life of Crows

3.30pm: Meet at the Old School House Geashill for talk and to see the roost gathering.
Leader: Ricky Whelan, BirdWatch Ireland

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Autumn Migrants Bird Walk

11am: Lough Boora Discovery Park – meet at Bird Hide.
Leader: Alex Copland, BirdWatch Ireland

