

2025 Bird Ringer training programme

Day 1

Classroom based activities at a SDNP location. Full day.

PPT presentation on Barn Owl biology

Nest box etiquette and monitoring

Ringing overview – applying metal and darvic rings, safe handling, biometrics

Ageing chicks and adults accurately

Agreeing 2025 training plan dates

Day 2

Field based. Full day.

Box monitoring and initial ringing

Trainees will be competent to monitor boxes age chicks and advise future ringing dates

Day 3

Field based

Box monitoring and initial ringing

Taking biometrics

Days 4,5,6,7

Ringing

Handling

Biometrics

Ageing

Day 8

Classroom based

Training review and individual appraisals

Training progress to obtain a full BTO C permit

i	Follow the code of practice on health and safety in the <i>Ringers' Manual</i> and advice provided by their trainer.	
ii	Identify in the hand species likely to be caught during the course of ringing operations and have the ability to use ringers' identification guides to identify such species.	
iii	Handle a range of species of birds confidently.	
iv	Fit correctly ring sizes of different material, overlap or shape a ring and adjust or remove a badly fitted ring.	
v	Age and sex Barn Owls using general methods eg different feather generations, feather shapes, growth bars and feather abrasion, brood patch. Explain how these general methods relate to the specific criteria used to age and sex birds at particular times of the year.	
vi	Take standard biometrics ie maximum wing chord, weight, brood patch scores; and know where to refer when required to take other measures.	
vii	Recognise the state of health of a bird such as chilling, stress, cramp, weak condition etc and take appropriate action when necessary.	
viii	Identify on a bird the standard topographical terms as defined Baker's <i>Identification Guide to European Non-Passerines</i> .	

ix	Know basic moult sequences of species likely to be caught and be able to record primary, secondary and tail moult as in Ginn & Melville's <i>Moult in Birds</i> .	
x	Number accurately secondaries, tertials and tail feathers etc in a variety of species following the system used in Ginn & Melville's <i>Moult in Birds</i> .	
xi	Take full and simple wing-formulae; age adults accurately based on primary moult	
xii	Take a full plumage description and necessary measurements of any species; to confirm identity (this is essential to support identification of a British or Irish Birds Rarities Committee rarity).	
xiii	Use blockers and nets effectively and safely.	
xiv	Recognise the types of weather conditions in which it is safe to trap birds.	
xv	Keep good records and submit them electronically to HQ in the appropriate format, using BTO's DeMon software.	
xvi	Understand and explain the way the Ringing Scheme is run, its scientific aims and objectives and how these fit into those of the BTO.	
xvii	Communicate effectively with members of the public about ringing in general and have the ability to cope calmly with alarmed or aggressive members of the public who chance across ringing activities.	