

# RECORDING IRELAND'S WILDLIFE: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

How to get involved in biological recording



**National  
Biodiversity  
Data Centre**



A Heritage Council Programme



# INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE

The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and information more freely available to better understand and protect Ireland's biodiversity. This guide is designed for those who are completely new to biodiversity and biodiversity recording. By the end of reading this you will be familiar with the basic concepts of biodiversity and how to get involved with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. By becoming a recorder, you will be a part of larger network with other recorders, scientists and conservationists with the aim of protecting Ireland's biodiversity.

## Getting started

### What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is simply the diversity of life on Earth. Biodiversity is a combination of all the living things we see each day.



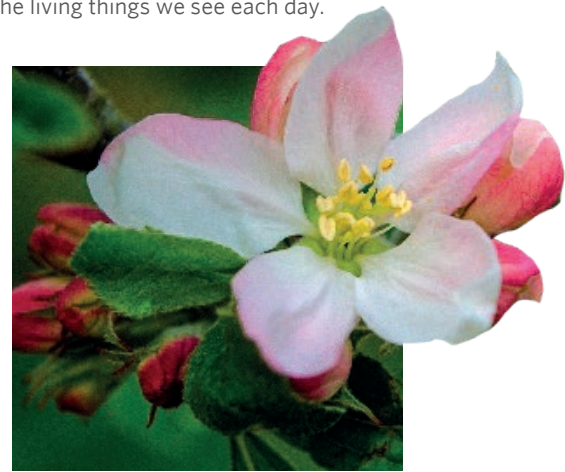
**Pearl-bordered Fritillary**

© Oisín Meagher



**Blue Tit**

© Liam Lysaght



**Apple Tree flower**

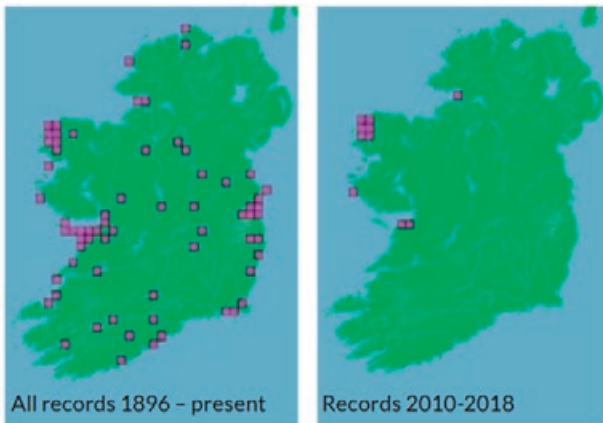
© Sean Slattery

Biodiversity plays a key role in each of us having a happy and healthy life. Getting involved in biodiversity recording helps us appreciate our local area and many studies have shown that interacting with the outdoors is a reliver of stress. It gives us of feel-good factor from contributing to data recording and helping scientists to conserve our biodiversity.



## Why should we record biodiversity?

Recording biodiversity allows us to see the changes in the number of species and their distribution across Ireland. Below are records of the Great Yellow Bumblebee from 1896 to present and records from 2010-2018. We can see from these maps that the Great Yellow now is mainly found in the west of Ireland in Mayo. Having this data allows conservationists to make decisions on how to protect rare species.



If you would like to learn more about the Great Yellow Bumblebee check out the How to guide on Protecting rare pollinators: Great Yellow Bumblebee



Great Yellow Bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*) ©Dave Suddaby

## What species or group should I start recording?

When you are completely new to biological recording, starting with a group with a low number of species is a great way to build confidence.

Why not start practicing with bumblebees that are made up of 17 species, butterflies that are made up of 35 species or dragonflies which have 17 species and damselflies that have 11 species. Trees and shrubs can be a fantastic way to start as well, you are able to have a long look at the leaves and twigs and there's no chasing after flying insects involved.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre produce several 'swatches' (pocket sized ID guides) that will get you started. All swatches can be purchased online at <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/shop/>

If there is a group that you are particularly interested in that has a large number of species like birds, break it down into manageable pieces. Start with the birds you see in your garden or your local forest. Set up feeders in the winter and you will have plenty of opportunities to get a closer look. Binoculars can really help and let you see the features needed for ID. Also, getting your hands on an Irish specific guide will narrow down your ID search.





# WHAT IS A BIOLOGICAL RECORD?

A biological record is very simply, **what** species, **who** recorded it, **where** it was seen and **when** it was seen.

All living things have 'scientific names'. These are the Latin names of species that are used among ecologists that prevent species being recorded as the wrong thing. There are many English names for species, for example, Hawthorn that we commonly see in hedges is also called Whitethorn and May-tree. However, if we call it by its scientific name *Crataegus monogyna*, we know exactly what it is.



Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

## Casual observations



Casual observations are those which we might make at any time, in any place and generally we are not looking for any species in particular. We might be simply out for a walk to exercise or to get a bit of fresh air, or we might be out enjoying nature in one of our favourite natural areas.

Casual observations can be submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre through the Ireland's Citizen Science Portal and through the Biodiversity Data Capture app.

### Want to take another step into your biological recording?

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has a variety of publications available on our website produced by ourselves and other organisations:

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/publications/>

## Ireland's Citizen Science Portal

Ireland's Citizen Science Portal has made biological recording more streamlined. This enables more people to get involved and ensures that Ireland's biological recording community has a reliable, secure and trustworthy way of pooling our knowledge of Ireland's biodiversity. Ireland's Citizen Science Portal is designed to be used for after you see a species and have returned home. Check out our informational video on this Ireland's Citizen Science here.

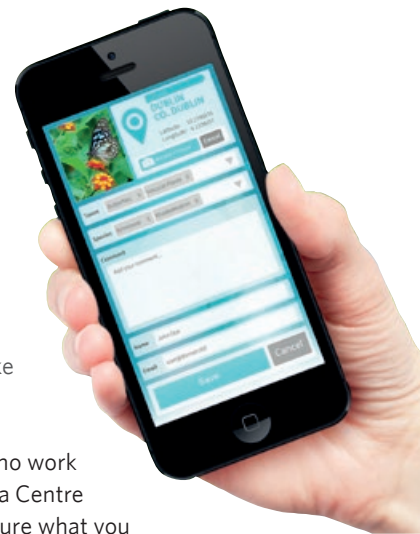
[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

## Biodiversity Data Capture App

The Biodiversity Data Capture app is designed for recording when you see a species when you are out in the field.

Both the Biodiversity Data Capture App and Ireland's Citizen Science Portal may look for some additional information that will make your record more valuable to us.

- ✓ Photos are a great way for us who work at the National Biodiversity Data Centre to help with your ID and make sure what you think you saw, is actually it.
- ✓ A habitat is the place where the plant, animal or fungus lives. Examples of habitats are lakes, woodland and semi-natural grassland.
- ✓ It may also look for how many (the abundance) of the plant, animal or fungus you saw.



# CITIZEN SCIENCE

The National Biodiversity Data Centre aims to understand how Ireland's biodiversity is fairing under the current environmental conditions and to track the changes in our biodiversity over time. We are able to answer these questions through citizen science.

**Citizen science is data collection by members of the public to help answer research questions.**

In other words, we want to collect high quality, scientifically robust data to track changes in Ireland's species and habitats. We rely on the good will and expertise of our recording community to take part in our recording initiatives and monitoring schemes to complete this work. Contributing and participating in these initiatives makes a significant contribution to better understand how Ireland's biodiversity is changing.

## Benefits of becoming a citizen scientist

There are any many benefits to becoming a citizen scientist:

- Adding to national dataset on Ireland's biological data. We also share our data with GBIF, a global biodiversity database of more than 6 billion records.
- Increasing your own scientific knowledge. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is delighted to welcome everyone to our recording community no matter what your background is.
- By monitoring, you are becoming a part of political decision making through your scientific contribution. Your data helps to track our efforts and allows to better use our resources to improve our biodiversity

### How your input helps national and global conservation



Submit your records and datasets to National Biodiversity Data Centre



Your data will help us to track Ireland's progress towards our goals to conserving biodiversity



We will share your data with the GBIF, a global biodiversity database of more than 6 billion records



# RECORDING SCHEMES FOR BEGINNERS

## How often should I record the species I see every day?

It is generally recommended that we record both common species and rare species with equal effort. What might be common today, might not be common tomorrow as we have learned with the Great Yellow Bumblebee. Biological recording allows ecologists to see trends and helps determine what causes population increases and decreases.

The sooner trends can be seen, the sooner conservation actions can be implemented to help prevent the decline of species. The National Biodiversity Data Centre run a variety of 'entry-level' recording schemes that provide citizen scientists with a taster to biological recording. The time commitment to these recording schemes is lower than our monitoring schemes and has a low difficulty level.

## Backyard Biodiversity

The National Biodiversity Data Centre runs an initiative called 'Backyard Biodiversity' to record species that people could see regularly in their garden. This scheme has listed 20 easy to recognise species that can be found in urban and rural gardens and is focused on getting people to start recording – so perfect for anyone who is reading this guide!

If you would like to find out more Backyard Biodiversity and take part click here <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/backyard-biodiversity/>



Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) © Edward Delaney



Hawthorn Shieldbug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*) © Kevin Murphy



Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) © Kevin Murphy



## Spring Flowers Project

A similar idea to the Backyard Biodiversity is the Spring Flowers Project that is run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. This project has chosen 20 species that are relatively easy to identify that flower during Spring. Flowers (vascular plants) are a huge group in Ireland so why not learn these 20 and build on your knowledge.

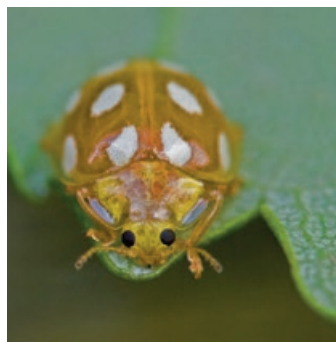
We have a dedicated page to the Spring Flowers Project that has each of the species showing the distribution and how to ID each plant <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/spring-flowers-project-2022/>



Cuckoo Flower (*Cardamine pratensis*)  
© Zoe Devlin

## The Ladybird Atlas 2025

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is initiating a Ladybird Atlas 2025 project. The Ladybird Atlas 2025 project has two overarching objectives. First, to increase the amount of observations of ladybirds in order to produce more comprehensive distribution maps for ladybird species in Ireland. And second, to improve knowledge of habitat preferences of the different species of ladybird. It is really easy to help with the Ladybird Atlas 2025 project. If you see a ladybird and are sure of its identification please submit your sightings through Ireland's Citizen Science Portal.



Orange Ladybird (*Halyzia sedecimguttata*)  
© Kevin Murphy

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/ladybird-atlas-2025/>

## Farmers' Wildlife Calendar

The Farmers' Wildlife Calendar is supported by the Department Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The aim is to track the effects of weather and climate on the timing of seasonal events e.g. when frogs spawn and when our common migrants arrive into Ireland for the summer. The occurrence seasonal events of our plants and animals is related to our climate and temperature and as our climate changes, it affects the timing of these events. For example, when our plants flower is related to air temperatures increasing, so as our planet warms, our plants are flowering sooner.



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
© Thomas Landgren

The Farmers' Wildlife Calendar only focuses on 9 seasonal events, which you only have to record the first occurrence of in your local area per year i.e. you only to have record 9 events per year so it makes it a very accessible recording initiative for beginners. We are happy to take records from both agricultural and non-agricultural areas.

Farmers'  
**Wildlife Calendar:**  
CLIMATE TRACKER



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture  
Food and the Marine

### Quick tip:

For further advice and guidance on how to minimise your impact in the outdoors please visit:

<https://www.leavenotraceireland.org>

# EXPLORE YOUR SHORE!

Explore Your Shore! is a project of the National Biodiversity Data Centre and is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. Explore Your Shore! aims to build a dataset on Ireland's Coastal marine wildlife. This data will allow us to investigate the effect on climate change and water quality on these species. We ask that you submit photos with each record for Explore Your Shore! as a rich diversity of species occur in our intertidal habitats.

**There are four surveys managed under your Explore Your Shore!**

## Seashore Spotter

Seashore Spotter is designed for casual records along the seashore and is an entry level survey to get you started recording marine species. You can record any species that you see but please make sure to take a photo. Once these records are validated, they will be added to our mapping system



Shore Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) © Dave Wall

## Big Beach Biodiversity

This survey is a timed survey focused on recording bivalves and marine flotsam. Bivalves are animals that have two halves to their shell, like mussels and oysters. Marine flotsam is the range of species that gets washed up on the shore like seaweeds and shark and ray egg cases. You can record both dead and live animals in this survey.

## Seashore Snapshots

This project is aimed at 'sessile' species meaning species that largely stay in the one place, like limpets and barnacles. You can take part by printing out a frame and taking 5 photos using it as a guide. The frame ensures that the photo is close enough for us to identify the species. For this survey you only need to know what a limpet and a barnacle look like and have a camera to take photos.



Common Starfish (*Asterias rubens*) © Dave Wall

## Rocky Shore Safari

Rocky Shore Safari is a survey designed to record the distribution of seaweeds and intertidal invertebrates around the Irish coastline. This survey is conducted at low tide where you search for 30 easily identified plant and animal species in your recording area over the space of one hour.

To get involved in Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science at the National Biodiversity Data Centre, please visit [www.exploreyourshore.ie](http://www.exploreyourshore.ie)



# INVASIVE SPECIES

## What is an invasive species?

Invasive species are non-native species that have been introduced by human activities, outside their natural range and that have the ability to threaten our native wildlife, cause damage to our environment, economy and human health.

## The role of National Biodiversity Data Centre

The National Biodiversity Data Centre works with other groups to provide national co-ordination on the management and dissemination of Ireland's invasive species data. We use the data that you provide us with to document the introductions and trends of invasive species and to inform policy and action on invasive species. It is important for each of us to be aware of invasive species and what we can do to prevent their introduction and spread.

*Rhododendron ponticum*  
flowers © Colette O' Flynn



## Invasive species in Ireland

The majority of non-native species in Ireland don't cause significant harm but 13% of the assessed alien species recorded in Ireland are high-impact invasive species. The rate of introductions of invasive alien species to Ireland is increasing and this in line with the increasing global movement of people and goods around the world.

## How to get involved

Casual records are the primary way that the National Biodiversity Data Centre receive records on invasive species. To get involved, become familiar with the identification of invasive species, and submit sightings with a photograph if possible, through the Biodiversity Data Capture App or through the Citizen Science Portal website. All information can be found on the <https://invasives.ie/>

**For more information on the role you can play to help tackle the threat from invasive species visit:** <https://invasives.ie/what-can-i-do/>

If your sighting is of an alert invasive species, then within 1 hour of submission, the automated Invasive Species Alert system is triggered. This means National Biodiversity Data Centre staff receive an alert notifying of the sighting submission with the full record details. The receiving staff will – as soon as possible – review the sighting record and work to have it verified. If verified, the relevant authorities are notified so they can determine the appropriate rapid response actions.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

# DRAGONFLY IRELAND

Dragonfly Ireland 2019 – 2024 is an all-Ireland survey of dragonflies and damselflies, and their habitats. It is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in the Republic of Ireland and by the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording in Northern Ireland. The Environmental Protection Agency funds Dragonfly Ireland 2019 – 2024 as part of a citizen science project examining the potential of aquatic species as bio-indicators of climate change and water quality. We are looking for volunteers to record Dragonflies and Damselflies and conduct surveys of their local wetlands and water courses.

The project offers three levels of participation to the public:

## Dragonfly Spotter

Dragonfly Spotter is for casual observations (as described on page 4) of Dragonflies and Damselflies that can be submitted either through the Biodiversity Data Capture app ([Android App](#) and [Apple App](#)) or through [Ireland's Citizen Science Portal](#).

## Dragonfly Recorder

Dragonfly Recorder surveys are effort-related site surveys for those familiar with and/or trained in dragonfly and damselfly survey techniques and identification. Dragonfly Recorders should conduct two surveys in at least one freshwater site per annum. One survey should be completed in May or June, and a second survey should be completed between July and early September. This is so the surveys will span the flight periods of all the species that occur in Ireland.

You may survey as many sites as you wish but we ask that two surveys be completed at each site within the given periods. During each survey you are also asked to fill in a short and simple habitat quality assessment.



## Dragonfly Monitor

Dragonfly Monitor surveys are effort-related site surveys for those familiar with and/or trained in dragonfly and damselfly survey techniques and identification. Dragonfly Monitors should conduct four surveys in at least one freshwater site per annum. Two surveys should be completed in May or June, and two surveys should be completed between July and early September. This is so the surveys will span the flight periods of all the species that occur in Ireland.

You may survey as many sites as you wish but we ask that four surveys be completed at each site within the given periods. During each survey you are also asked to fill in a short and simple habitat quality assessment.

To find out more about Dragonfly Ireland and how you can get involved, please visit: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/dragonfly-ireland/>



# POLLINATORS

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan aims to make the landscape more pollinator-friendly by providing evidence-based resources for all sectors, including farmers, councils, schools, gardens and others. A key part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is having data so we can provide you with the best management options. You can get involved by submitting casual records of bees and hoverflies through the online recording system or through the Biodiversity Data Capture app. Other ways to get involved include:

## Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme

The All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme monitors bumblebees on a monthly basis from March to October each year, generating detailed information on bumblebee populations and how they are changing. The All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, established by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2012, is one of the first of its kind globally. It tracks Ireland's widespread bumblebee species and uses the status of the 8 commonest species to generate a multi-species population index as a measure of the health of Ireland's bumblebee populations. It provides vital baseline data that will be used to assess the impact of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. More details: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/bumblebee-monitoring-scheme/>

CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO ►

## Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count)

FIT Counts are very simple - you watch a patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit and then submit your data online. The scheme runs from April to September. Your location can be anywhere e.g., garden, farm, park, school. Doing this across various action sites and then repeating through the year and across future years will show you the impact of management changes on insect numbers and diversity. More details: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/flower-insect-timed-count-fit-count/>

CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO ►

## Other pollinator citizen science initiatives

Other recording initiatives include submitting records on our 78 solitary bees, tracking rare bumblebees, tracking expansion in our two most recent bumblebee arrivals, tracking populations of rare species and watching for new arrivals. To learn more about these please go to <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/>



Great Yellow Bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*)



© Fionn Moore

# BUTTERFLIES

The National Biodiversity Data Centre run a variety of schemes that the public can get involved with and thereby help in the conservation of butterflies. In 2010, the Irish Butterfly Red List found that, of the 35 resident and regular migrant species of Irish butterfly, one species is now extinct, six species are threatened with extinction and five species are of 'Near Threatened' status.

## Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

The Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme is a scheme that requires volunteers to walk a transect weekly to record butterflies. This scheme generates very valuable data on butterfly populations. More details can be found here:

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/butterfly-monitoring-scheme/>

## Five Visit Monitoring Scheme

However, if once a week is too much of time commitment for you - the Five Visit Monitoring Scheme is for you. It is identical to the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme; the only difference being you walk your route just five times per year: twice between 22nd April to 16th June, three times between 1st July and 31st August, leaving a minimum of two weeks between walks. Find out more here <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/five-visit-monitoring-scheme/>



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) © Kevin Murphy

## Garden Butterfly Monitoring

The Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme seeks to determine how important gardens are for butterflies and to track population change in our commonest species. The scheme requires surveyors to register their garden with the Data Centre then to make regular 15-minute counts of the butterflies seen in the garden, on at least a weekly basis from 1st April to 30th September each year.

More details can be found here: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/garden-butterfly-monitoring-scheme/>



Peacock (*Inachis io*)  
© Liam Lysaght

## Marsh Fritillary Monitoring Scheme

The Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) is the only legally protected Irish insect, listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. This scheme requires volunteers to go out once a year during September–October. When monitoring for Marsh Fritillary we don't count the adult butterflies, but instead survey for the number of fist-sized larval webs constructed by colonies of its caterpillars. Find out more here <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/marsh-fritillary-monitoring-scheme/>



Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) larval web © Niamh Phelan



# THE IDENTIFICATION OBSTACLE

## Don't know the species ID? Here is what to do

No matter what level of experience in recording you have, you'll never know it all. Biological recording is a specific exercise, you need to know exactly what species you are recording before you record it. You cannot submit a record when you are hazarding a guess.



*Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*  
© Paul Whelan

If you are unsure, here is some things you can do:

- **Try your best to identify the species yourself and try not to hastily post photos up of your mystery species online.** We have learned about a lot of the resources the National Biodiversity Data Centre provide, try using these first. After that, try posting online forum (Facebook has lots groups dedicated to ID). Providing some of the relevant details around the mystery species, such as the date of observation, location, approximate size of the animal / plant / fungus, rough description of the habitat and any details with regards to the behaviour observed if it was an animal sighting.
- **Refer to the regionally relevant guide or piece of literature if one is available.** This may require a bit of time and effort but offers you a great learning experience that will benefit you in the long run. Becoming familiar with the terminology and references to various parts of the animal / plant / fungus anatomy can be challenging but that's all part of the fun of recording and learning more about the wildlife on your doorstep!

- **Seek the help of a specialist.** More often than not the staff here at the National Biodiversity Data Centre will be able to identify many of the species that come in via email by recorders. If further assistance is required, staff generally know what specialists can be contacted too. So just send the Centre an email, with the relevant information associated with your observation and a photo (or several) of the organism if you have any. You may already know a specialist who you are confident can help and, in that case, contact them either.

## Online resources available through the National Biodiversity Data Centre

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is working to collate as many free and downloadable resources as possible on the identification of species from different taxonomic groups.

### Find our dedicated pages to ID

Pollinators:

<https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/id-guides/>

Explore Your Shore!:

<https://exploreyourshore.ie/resources/>

Invasive species:

<https://invasives.ie/resources/identification-guides/>

Happy recording!



# RECORDING IN THE FIELD

'In the field' is a phrase used to describe any activity or work that takes place outdoors, such as recording wildlife. It could refer to recording in your garden, your local forest or a field on the farm. There are some basic considerations you need to know before going out in the field (some more so than others, depending on where and what you are recording). It is a legal requirement to have the permission of landowners for accessing their property and needs to be received before planning any survey work.

## The safety aspect of working in the field

Your health and safety are paramount above and beyond any species record.

This might not be relevant if you are recording in your back garden, local park or on a familiar walking route. If you are heading off exploring a new route or a different hillside to the one you are used to, please make sure to use good OSI maps and/or printouts from Google Maps. This will require you to be able to read maps first of course - put in the practice as it will be time well spent. In remote places, a good compass is essential.



If at all possible, we recommend recording with another person or in a group. It makes it more safe and enjoyable.

Always carry your mobile phone with you and make sure it is fully charged. Acquiring a first-aid kit for the field is well worth the associated cost (and making sure you know how to use it). Acquire good footwear for the outdoors, good wet gear if you do not have any and bring along some

sun protection too (it's Ireland after all - always expect changeable conditions to be on the safe side). Bring plenty of water and stay hydrated, especially during periods of warm weather. Always makes sure to let somebody at home know where you are going, especially if you are unaccompanied.

The last thing we want to do as a biological recording community is to add to negative pressures the environment is already facing. Which is why we recommend all biological recorders familiarise themselves with the seven Principles of Leave No Trace, designed to minimise environmental and social impacts in the outdoors:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Be considerate of others
3. Respect farm animals and wildlife
4. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
5. Leave what you find
6. Dispose of waste properly
7. Minimise the effect of fire

## Join a naturalists' field club or a wildlife NGO

Naturalists field clubs are groups that share their interest in the natural world. Naturalist field clubs generally provide walks on the local history and ecology of your county. They are a great to learn from other people and connect with other recorders in your locality.

Wildlife NGO's include groups like BirdWatch Ireland, Irish Wildlife Trust or the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. Each of these groups will have different information and events available to you. Take your time browse through each of their websites to see what interests you the most and join them!



# TRAINING RESOURCES

The National Biodiversity Data Centre offers training to our existing and new biological recorders. Completing training is an excellent way to increase your knowledge on different taxonomic groups and is recommended at the beginning of a new survey season to brush up on your skills. We offer training as both in-person workshops and online training.

## In-person workshops

In-person workshops which will be delivered by a professional, and are a great to learn more about Ireland's biodiversity. Often workshops are related to our monitoring schemes which will cover the method, equipment needed, identification and some fieldwork.



\*Note: this is a generalisation of workshops and each workshop will be tailored to suit the topic

In-person workshops are a great way to get 'hands-on' experience. For example, in the Bumblebee and Butterfly Monitoring Scheme fieldwork, you may learn how to correctly catch and release bumblebees and butterflies without harming yourself or the insect.



Please visit [biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie) to see if there are any in-person workshops available.

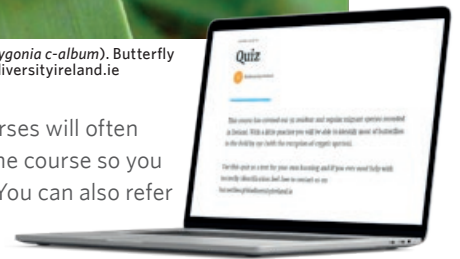
## Online training

We also provide online training to our recording community. These courses are fully responsive across all devices, phone, tablet, laptop and desktop. For courses that relate to species identification, they will be very photo dense, going through all the identification features.



Identification features of Comma (*Polyommatus c-album*). Butterfly identification course available on [biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie)

Our online training courses will often have a quiz at the end of the course so you can test your knowledge. You can also refer back to them as often as required until you are confident in your skills.



If possible, we would recommend a blended approach between in-person workshops and online learning as there are different benefits to both. If you have any questions related to training, please feel free to contact [info@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:info@biodiversityireland.ie)

# National Biodiversity Data Centre



A Heritage Council Programme

## About the National Biodiversity Data Centre

The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and information more freely available in order to better understand and assist the protection of Ireland's biodiversity. Find out what biodiversity has already been recorded in your local area: maps. [biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie)

Help us to build up the knowledge of biodiversity in your local area by submitting sightings to [records.biodiversityireland.ie](http://records.biodiversityireland.ie)

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An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

