



**Bob
Brind-Surch
Natures
Photos**



Natures Photos

12 Stanion Road
Brigstock
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN14 3HW

07983 427202
01536 373977

bob@naturesphotos.co.uk
www.naturesphotos.co.uk

Harvest Mouse Photography Workshop



As Britain's smallest British rodent harvest mice are the only old world mammal to have truly prehensile tails which they use to help them climb. They are indeed extremely active and agile climbers feeding in the stalk zone of long grasses and reeds. Their eyesight is poor but the hearing very acute and in the wild they will react rapidly to noise; either freezing or dropping into cover in response to rustling sounds up to 7m away. I was introduced to this little mouse nearly 40 years ago and I have been fond of them ever since.

They make fascinating subjects for wildlife photography. 35 years ago I undertook a photo study of a captive colony a project I have revisited recently. Having established a colony for this project I am now thrilled to be able to give others the opportunity to photograph them for themselves.

This is a chance to capture some really stunning images and to have some fun at the same time. The workshops are ½ day and I limit the numbers to 2 sometimes 3. Dates are advertised on my website, www.naturesphotos.co.uk, where places may also be booked. I am offering

workshops near my office 15 miles North of Northampton within easy access to all the main routes and a short distance from the main M14 cross country link. Post code for SAT NAV users NN14 3HW

This workshop would also make a great outing for a group from a camera club. If you or your camera club is interested please contact me directly – contact details at the top of this leaflet and on my website.

My aim on this and all my workshops is quite simple; to help you improve your technique and to come away with some memorable images. As well as “managing” the mice I will therefore be on hand to give instruction and advice as required.





Photography Level

This is one event where you don't need the latest and greatest DSLR camera. Perfectly acceptable photographs can be obtained using a reasonable quality compact digital camera. I have even taken some photographs with my iPhone!

Photographic equipment required

If you are using a DSLR almost any medium length lens will do for this workshop but you will find you manage better with a lens of at least 100mm preferably 200mm. A lens of 200mm or more, possibly with extension tubes to allow you to focus closer, will give you the opportunity to capture pleasing frame filling shots of individual mice. A lens of this length with a wide maximum aperture will also give nice soft out of focus backgrounds for wider shots of mice climbing vegetation. In reality a combination of lenses from 70mm to 300mm or longer, perhaps as zooms, plus extension tubes if you have them will therefore be

ideal. A macro lens will also be useful. A tripod isn't necessary but you might find it or perhaps better still a monopod helpful. Lighting is always difficult with such small and fast moving subjects and you would therefore whilst not necessary a flashgun might prove useful.

If you have any particular questions re-equipment please contact me before the workshop. I can also arrange for very cost effective hire of individual lenses or even camera for the day if required. It may be that you for example want to use this as an opportunity to experiment with a specific lens in a 'real world situation' before considering buying one.

This will be a short but intensive workshop so bring plenty of memory cards and batteries and expect to take home lots of great images.

Schedule

This is a ½ day (2½ hour) workshop (or an evening if booked by a club for a practical session). Morning sessions will start at 10am and run till 12:30pm. In the summer months – April through to September inclusive afternoon session will start at 2pm and run till 4:30pm. In the other (winter) months the afternoon session will start and finish ½ hour earlier at 1:30 to make the most of the available light.

We will hope for good weather but if this isn't the case I will contact you beforehand. If the workshop is not fully booked it is possible to use my summer house but if it is fully booked I will if possible reschedule for a later date. In the summer months I limit the numbers on this workshop to 4 and in the winter months just 2.



Fitness level and clothing required

The workshop is normally held outside in my garden which has some established hedges which provide natural backdrops to the photos. As it is my house charging points for camera batteries are available although to get the most of the day you would be advised to bring plenty of batteries for both camera and flash and plenty of memory cards. You will be surprised how many photos you will take in just 2½ hours !

Toilet facilities are available and you will be offered a drink of tea or coffee on arrival and during the session.

I am afraid that we run this workshop in a field opposite our house and there is a path and slope to the field which would probably make it not suitable for wheelchair users or guest with specific mobility requirements. If you have any particular concerns please contact me directly.



Finally

I look forward to meeting you if you decide to book on this workshop but be warned photographing harvest mice is highly addictive!

Bob Brind-Surch

All dates, availability and costs are advertised on my website, www.naturesphotos.co.uk.

To book places please visit my website and complete an online booking form or contact me direct, details below.

Other dates may be available if groups e.g. camera clubs wanted to book them. Please contact me for further information.

Telephone 01536 373977 or Mobile 07983 427202 (preferred) or email info@naturesphotos.co.uk





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