



**Bob  
Brind-Surch  
Natures  
Photos**



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## Specialist Raptor Photography day

I run a number of raptor workshops at various locations around the UK. Each offers its own special and unique opportunities. This workshop is held at a bird of prey centre in North Northamptonshire which provides the opportunity to photograph a truly unique range of birds. Unlike most other centres most of these birds are trained and actively used for hunting so are in excellent condition, very keen and fit. Uniquely for falconry centres they are kept with the minimum of equipment making semi natural shots all the easier and much more realistic. The centre itself is located in the centre of a splendid 3,000 acre private estate providing us with excellent opportunities to photograph birds in a wide range of natural settings. We will have access to the whole of the estate and working with the owner and head falconer I will have selected a number of natural settings for us to use to photograph the birds.



During the day we will have ample opportunities to photograph a range of birds, from owls to magnificent eagles and challengingly fast falcons. The exact list will depend on the weather and those



which the centre feels are most appropriate on the day but will include owls, eagles, hawks and a range of falcons from the smaller kestrel and merlin right up to the large, fast and magnificent peregrine and gyrfalcon. With many of these species there will be ample opportunity for static and flight shots and many of these will be with birds with the minimum levels of equipment (jesses etc).

Our host for the day will be the owner and raptor expert Mike Hewlett. Mike is an experienced and highly respected falconer with extensive experience of training and flying a wide range of birds including the more difficult species such as the large falcons and eagles. His experience is invaluable and is key to making the day a success. Over the years he has worked with many different photographers and therefore fully understands our specific requirements and that we can be very demanding.

In addition to static shots we will have the opportunity to practise more taxing flight shots. With many species Mike will be able encourage the birds to fly the same path repeatedly thus enabling you to practice and fine tune your tracking abilities before attempting to photograph the large falcons the true high speed masters.

As your wildlife photographer guide I will be on hand all day to assist by explaining relevant techniques, camera settings etc. to help you to take the best photographs. This will include the very specific requirements to help improve your success rate with flight photography. I will have a laptop available during lunch so we can look through and discuss the results of our labours but please feel free to bring your own laptop if you require. Whilst the viewers on the back of cameras are great there is no substitute for a full size laptop screen.



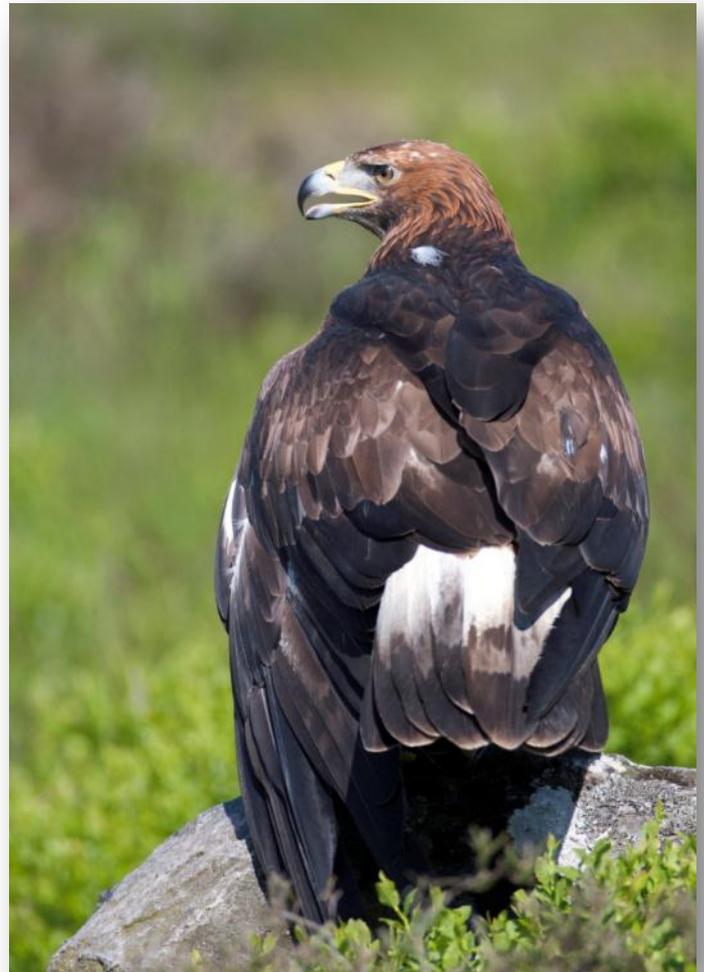
Almost any medium length lens will do for this workshop but for the flight shots a lens reaching 200mm or more would be better. A fast (wide aperture) lens of 200mm or more would also give pleasing head shots. Shorter lenses are better for capturing static shots e.g. birds on fence posts etc. In reality a combination of lenses from 70mm to 300mm or longer, perhaps as zooms, will therefore be ideal. A tripod isn't necessary but if you are

taking a longer lens you might like to include one. We will be visiting a number of different areas but will travel around by vehicle so carrying equipment will not be a problem.

The workshop will last 5 to 6 hours and start times will vary according to the time of year as all workshops will be timed to make use of the best light of the day. The centre is situated just to the north of Northampton and I will provide full directions timing etc. on booking. We will hope for good weather but if this isn't the case we will fly the birds less and spend more time taking portraits and staged shots of birds in specific and species appropriate settings. In the event of very poor weather I will attempt to contact everyone the day before and if possible reschedule for a later date. This day has been individually arranged for me and the people I take and thus we can, within reason and respecting the bird's welfare, ask Mike to take as long as we like with a particular bird and vary the positioning and lighting to suit our requirements.

It could be a chilly day so please bring suitable warm waterproof clothing and suitable footwear. Some of the shots will be taken laying on the ground so you will get dirty ! Hot drinks will be provided throughout the day but could you please bring a packed lunch.

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



Bob Brind-Surch

All dates, availability and costs are advertised on my website, [www.naturesphotos.co.uk](http://www.naturesphotos.co.uk).

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

The charge for the day includes tea/coffee on arrival, full photographic tuition and falconer guides plus entrance to the venue

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

Telephone 01327 352505 or Mobile 07983 427202 (preferred) or email [info@naturesphotos.co.uk](mailto:info@naturesphotos.co.uk).



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