

Ontario Naturalist Level 1 Course

2025 Workshop Dates

Date & Time	Module	Workshop Description
Saturday April 12 th 12pm – 4pm	Reptiles of Ontario	A hands-on workshop featuring live reptiles from around the province! Learn how to identify and conserve Ontario's snakes, turtles, and lizard. Learn about threats and conservation issues, key identification features, distribution, handling techniques, and much more! Participants will have the opportunity to handle various live species.
Saturday May 10 9:30am – 3:30pm	Natural Connections: Helping Others Develop a Lifelong Relationship with Nature	This session will cover current methods and practices in outdoor/environmental education. Working with an experienced outdoor educator, you will gain hands-on experience in delivering nature-based programs for people of all ages. A variety of activities and resources will be shared to support your own practice as a nature interpreter, helping others on their journey to re-connect with Planet Earth (helping others to develop a lifelong relationship with nature). Be prepared for an active (joyous) day in the great outdoors!
Part 1 (online): Wednesday May 21, 6pm - 8pm Part 2 (in-person): Saturday May 24, 7:30am - 11:30am	Introduction to Birds of Ontario	Bird watching is one of the most popular hobbies in North America — and with a wide variety of birds living in our backyards, nearby parks and outdoor spaces; it's easy to understand why. This 2-part module is a fun and educational introduction to birding, covering topics such as bird identification, bird anatomy, how to choose and use binoculars and where/when to look for birds in Ontario. Part 1 will be hosted virtually, and Part 2 will be hosted at Kortright Centre for Conservation.
Sunday June 8 10am – 3:30pm	Wildflower and Tree Identification	In this hands-on training session, you will learn how to identify trees and wildflowers in the field, focusing on common species found in the GTA. An expert facilitator will show you how to use a field guide and dichotomous key, while teaching you tips and tricks for identifying wildflower and tree species.
Sunday July 6 12pm - 4pm	Dragonflies and Damselflies	Learn about the fascinating biology, behavior, natural history, and migration patterns of some of the world's most ancient flying animals - the dragonflies and damselflies! Join an expert naturalist for a whirlwind tour of these strikingly beautiful insects and venture outdoors to learn some in-the-field identification while observing dragonflies and damselflies in their natural habitats.
Saturday July 5 9:30am – 1pm	Bees	This workshop will give you an up-close look into the lives of these incredible insects! Learn all about bumble bee biology and identification, their role in our environment, and threats to their health. You'll be given hands-on opportunities to learn how to: -find, collect, and photograph bumble bees -identify bumble bees -share your observations with the scientific community!
Saturday July 12 10am – 4pm	Butterflies of Ontario	This session will cover life cycles, habitat, and identification of common butterflies of Ontario. After learning the basics in the classroom, you will head out into the field to observe and identify butterflies in a variety of habitats found at the Kortright Centre.
Sunday August 24 10am - 2pm	Fish Identification	Immerse yourself in the aquatic marvels of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) with our hands on workshop centered on the diverse array of local fish species.
Wednesday October 16 6:30pm - 8pm	Birds of Prey	Join Wild Ontario's naturalists for an evening all about birds of prey! In the first part of this program, we'll cover the basics of biology, natural history, and identification. Then, meet some of Wild Ontario's live birds of prey, up close and personal.

Online Modules (Can be Completed anytime between April – November): Amphibians of Ontario, Natural History of Southern Ontario & Mammal ID and Tracking