

The BCWG Kit Store

Members are reminded that we are steadily putting together an inventory of interesting gadgetry for use in the field. The equipment may be borrowed free of charge by members. Contact Terri Clarke on 01409 221202. Upon collection, Terri will explain how the equipment is used and the obligations and responsibilities of members whilst it is in their possession.

Here are four of the items available...



Setting up the camera



Spypoint IR-8 Trail Camera

This 8 megapixel trail camera is designed to be set up and left to take still pictures or 30-second bursts of video clips of animals automatically, day or night. By day the images will be in colour; by night they will be black and white as they will be infra-red (IR) illuminated.

The camera has a water-resistant (but not waterproof) housing fitted with straps for attachment to trees or posts. The movement of animals nearby triggers the camera into action. The 46-LED IR flash does not startle them as it is not visible light.

It has a handy built-in viewing screen enabling results to be checked in the field without the need to remove the SD card for checking elsewhere. It is powered by a single Lithium battery which, in normal use, will last about 90 days.



Bresser/National Geographic Night Vision Monocular

If you have ever wondered what is really going on outside your house at night, wonder no more! This night vision device works in absolute darkness with its IR illumination active and has a range of up to 60 metres (66 yards). The black and white image produced can have 5 times magnification. Part-colour images are produced when there is still enough residual light, when the IR lighting may not be needed.

Weighing only 271 grams (9.5 ounces) it has its own nylon carrying pouch. It can also be tripod mounted.



Magenta Bat5 Digital Quartz Bat Detector



The Magenta Bat5 is a superheterodyne bat detector with an illuminated, easy to read (day or night), 4-digit LCD frequency display. It has a range of 10kHz to 130 kHz and an extended low frequency range suitable for insects and some birds.

It has a specially contoured microphone housing for enhanced high frequency sensitivity and a front facing, low distortion, mylar loudspeaker. It has a large diameter frequency dial and edgewise volume control which make for easy one-handed operation. Stereo headphones can be used in which case the external volume is muted.

The unit has output sockets which allow the detector to be connected to a tape recorder or portable computer.

A wrist strap and built-in torch are provided for extra convenience and a guide sheet is included to show which bats can be detected at which frequencies.

BirdVoice Talking and Recording Pen

This gadget, part of the BirdMIKE series of products from TalkingPEN Publications, is a small hand-held computer in the form of a stout pen. It is used in conjunction with a specially-manufactured card which has pre-recorded sounds from 270 bird species embedded in it. When the pen touches these 'soundspots' on the card it plays back the chosen bird sounds instantly, enabling immediate confirmation or contradiction of your efforts at identification!

If you are really flummoxed by what you are hearing, BirdVoice will record the song for you so you can take it home and try to make your identification later. You can also keep your recordings by creating your own soundspots as sticky labels.

