

THE ROYAL PARKS CONTACT DETAILS

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The Royal Parks are: Bushy Park,
The Green Park, Greenwich Park,
Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens,
The Regent's Park & Primrose Hill,
Richmond Park and St James's Park.

design: www.chacha.co.uk



BIRDS IN THE ROYAL PARKS



The Royal Parks are a haven for wildlife and the majority of birds in this leaflet can be found in all of the Royal Parks. Additional large collections of exotic waterfowl exist in The Regent's Park and St James's Park with smaller collections located at Bushy Park, Greenwich Park and Richmond Park.



THERE ARE FIVE KINDS OF BIRD IN THE PARKS THAT WE WOULD PREFER YOU NOT TO FEED:

Herons They naturally eat fish, frogs and snakes, not grains and vegetable matter.

Crows Feeding can lead to a population out of step with the natural balance. When this happens, we unfortunately have to artificially control their numbers.

Pigeons Feeding pigeons allows weak and diseased birds to survive that would usually perish. This means those weaknesses and diseases could spread to the wider pigeon population, meaning more birds end up suffering as a result.

Canada Geese and Greylag Geese Feeding can encourage too many in an area which causes excessive fouling of footpaths and grassed areas. Numbers are managed at acceptable levels through artificial control methods.



WHEN FEEDING THE BIRDS, PLEASE DO:

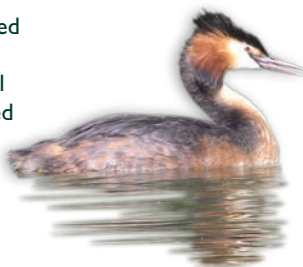
- Give bird-seed, duck pellets, or whole wheat *If these are not available, try brown rice, lentils, pearl barley or split peas. However they must all be cooked first*
- Note that birds don't naturally eat bread – they are more used to eating seeds, berries and pulses *If you only have bread, make it wholemeal*
- Feed the swans lettuce – they really like it
- Avoid feeding in areas where the grass is showing wear or damage
- Only feed waterfowl in the water
- Only give as much as the birds eat while you are there – as uneaten food left in the water can lead to pollution and disease
- Dispose of empty feed bags properly – they can be dangerous to the birds and other wildlife

PLEASE DON'T:

- Feed with white bread
- Feed with mouldy food of any type
- Feed cooked food (other than the pulses and grain mentioned above)
- Feed cheese or meat
- Feed on flower beds and other planting, or where the grass is worn
- Leave food behind as this attracts rats and vermin

Great Crested Grebe

In the 1900's this bird was nearly exterminated from Great Britain for the sake of its beautiful head feathers. They feed on fish which they chase under water.



Mallard

The most familiar of all wild ducks; all domestic ducks originate from the mallard.



Greylag Geese

The only species of 'grey' goose to breed in the UK, the only truly wild birds are found in Scotland.

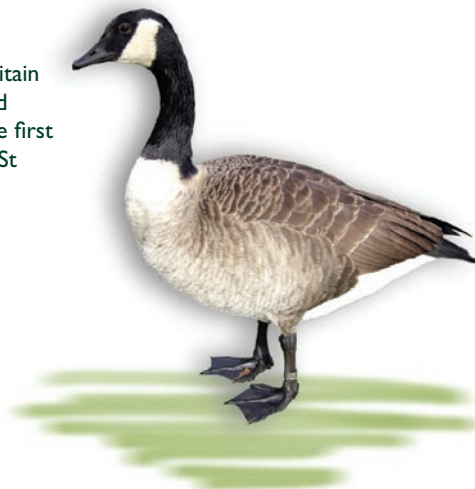
Moorhen

Another name for this species is 'Waterhen' due to its appearance and the fact that it can be found well away from water.



Canada Goose

Introduced into Britain over three hundred years ago, when the first birds were put on St James's Park lake.



Northern Shoveler

A surface feeder, using its shovel shaped bill to sieve the water, sometimes seen spinning around to draw food to the surface.



Mandarin

A very exotic looking species, escaped from waterfowl collections and has established itself in parts of southern England.



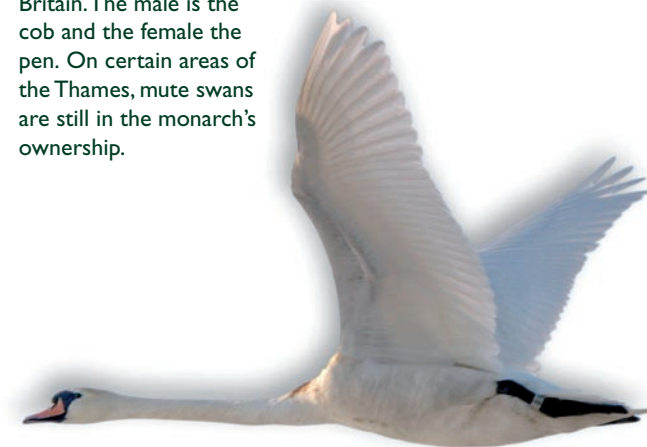
Pochard

A British resident whose numbers are swelled in winter by birds from as far away as Asia. A diving duck preferring shallow waters.



Mute Swan

The largest flying bird in Britain. The male is the cob and the female the pen. On certain areas of the Thames, mute swans are still in the monarch's ownership.



Tufted Duck

A common duck of ponds and lakes in city parks. Behaviour is very similar to the Pochard, although it can dive to greater depths.



Coot

The term 'bald as a coot' originated from coots having white foreheads. These birds are very territorial with fighting seen regularly during the spring.





Chaffinch

The most widespread species in the UK. During the winter months birds flock together to feed and gather to roost with other finches.



Greenfinch

This beautiful finch is commonly seen on bird feeders. Look out for its bat-like courtship display flight.

Great Tit

The largest member of the tit family. Their song uses more notes than any other British bird, over 68 different ones.



Robin

Often called the 'gardeners friend' for their habit of hopping around on freshly dug ground. Males fiercely defend their territories.



Blackbird

The most visible member of the thrush family in parks and gardens. Males can be heard singing during the hours of darkness if street lights are nearby.



Blue Tit

The most common member of the tit family, will use any suitable sized hole to nest in; even in lamp and gate posts or holes in walls.

Jay

Our most colourful member of the crow family. During the autumn birds feed on acorns, many of which they bury for later use.



Song Thrush

A once familiar bird in gardens, numbers have dropped alarmingly in recent years.

Uses a selected rock for cracking snail shells.

