



Birds

There are around 50 species of bird which are regularly recorded within the country park. The Country Park has a good variety of bird life thanks to the variety of habitats that are found here – mature woodlands, conifer plantations, grassland, rivers and areas of open water all attract their own particular species.

Around half of the birds found within the park are permanent residents. These include many common woodland species such as Treecreepers, Coal Tits, Chaffinches, Blackbirds and Woodpigeons which you will spot easily as you wander around the park. Great Spotted Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, Buzzards and Tawny Owl can also be spotted.

We have quite a few visitors in late spring who stay within the park for the summer to breed and then return to their winter homes in the South when the weather turns cold. Our most common summer visitors include Swallows, Swifts, House Martins, Spotted Flycatchers and warblers such as Blackcaps.

In winter we get another influx of visiting birds that come to escape the harsh weather in their northern homes. Our winter visitors include Mistle Thrushes, Redwings, Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtails. The number of common birds such as Starlings and Great Tits also increase at this time of year as many more birds fly in from Scandinavia and Russia. Mallards and Widgeons also visit our Quarry Pond.

Dippers can also often be seen on the river perched on rocks and indulging in their favourite behaviour which gives them their name. Grey Wagtails can also be commonly found foraging around the rocks for insects. On quieter sections of the river look out for Grey Heron and if you're lucky, you may see a flash of bright cobalt blue as a Kingfisher streaks past.

To find out more about these birds and what they sound like so that you can identify them visit:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/a/>

