

## Geese

### Domestic Goose

Common on many of our lakes and ponds. Usually all white but some are similar to the Greylag. They tend to be fatter than "wild" species' which is due to the selected breeding of domestic stock.



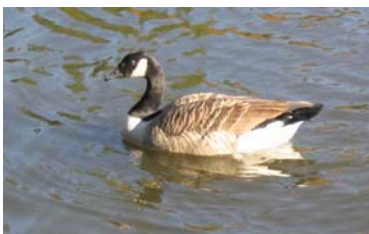
### Greylag Goose

This species is the ancestor of most domestic geese. Found only occasionally in the Borough, on our larger lakes. Similar to Canada Goose but lacks the black and white detail to the head and neck.



### Canada Goose

Introduced from America. A very common goose, breeding in many of our parks. Note the black head and neck with white cheeks.



## Goose or Swan ?

Geese and Swans have long necks and are usually white, so there is often some confusion with their identification.



**Whooper Swan**  
Yellow patch

**Mute Swan**  
Orange bill with black area between bill and eye.



**Domestic Goose**  
All Orange bill

## The Wonders of Wetlands

Wetlands are very important for wildlife. As well as the obvious waterfowl there is a wealth of life dependant on this habitat. whether a large lake such as Babbs Mill or small ponds in a marshy area like Brueton Conservation Area. Even garden ponds are vitally important to wildlife. Many species of insects spend the first part of their lives in water such as Dragonflies and Mayflies. Frogs and Newts need water to breed. Otters and Water Voles live and feed around wetlands.

And many species of plants grow in or near ponds - (Yellow Flag, Ragged Robin, Water Crow's-foot).

The main threats to our wetlands are; drainage, pollution and introduction of non-native plants such as Water Fern and Pigmy Weed.

We are lucky in Solihull to have access to many wetland sites;

**Elmdon Park** has a series of ponds.

**Babbs Mill** has a large lake adjacent to the river Cole.

**Brueton Park** has large formal lake, woodland lake, marsh with small, open ponds.

**Marston Green Park** has a few new ponds and the Low Brook runs through the park.

**Alcott Wood** has a small woodland pond.

**Jobs Close** has a small, formal pond and a wooded stream.

**Tudor Grange** has a formal lake and stream.

**Palmers Rough** has a woodland pond.

**Dorridge Park** has a small woodland pond and wooded stream.

**Olton Jubilee** has wet woodland and formal stream.

**Hillfields Park** has a lake and natural stream lined with Alders.

These are just a few of our wetlands, there are many other small ponds such as **Cheveston Crescent** and **Alderminster Drive**.

## The Uninvited Guest

Please remember when feeding the ducks and geese that too much bread can cause problems. Bread is not the best choice of food for birds, so try wheat for a (healthy) change.

But the biggest concern is that you are not only feeding the birds but also the uninvited guest !!

**Please feed responsibly.**

For more information contact  
Solihull Park Rangers 0121 704 8472

## Waterfowl Of The Borough



MANY FAMILIES ENJOY FEEDING THE WILDFOWL ON THEIR LOCAL POND. IN SOLIHULL WE HAVE MANY PARKS WITH WATER BODIES SUPPORTING DUCKS AND GEESE, AND WE WELCOME RESPONSIBLE FEEDING. THIS LEAFLET IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE ENJOYMENT OF A VISIT TO THE PARK BY AIDING THE IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES AND HELPING LOCATE THE BEST LOCAL SITES.

# Birds you may see on our lakes and ponds

There are many species of birds that depend on our wetlands including small Warblers and Buntings.

This leaflet is designed to help identify the larger, more obvious species of waterbirds, including Wild-fowl and Gulls.

## Moorhen or Coot ?

These two species are a common site but do cause some confusion.

### Coot >

All black except for a white bill and forehead. Usually on larger water bodies. Not seen out of water very often.

Present all year.



### < Moorhen

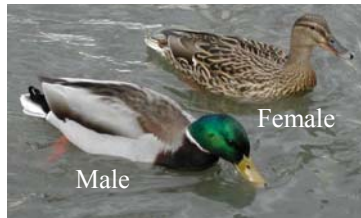
Can be seen on just about any size pond. More often seen on land than the Coot. Blue/black with white stripes on side.

Red bill with yellow tip.

Present all year.

## Ducks

The following photographs are of typical Male ducks unless stated. Females of all species are similar in shape to the males but tend to be brown/black.



### Mallard

Very common. The male has distinctive green/blue head. The juveniles and females are brown (see photo). Present all year.

### Tufted Duck

This little black and white duck is found on many of our larger ponds and lakes. Present all year.



### Pochard

A regular winter visitor to our larger lakes. Male is grey and black with rusty head. Female is all brown. Winter only



### Wigeon

A rare winter visitor. This species prefers undisturbed sites where they are able to graze in grassland adjacent to a lake. Winter only.



### Shoveller

Another rare visitor to the Borough. Note the very large bill which is typical of both male and female. Winter .



## Gulls

### Black-headed Gull



Summer



Winter

This is the commonest of our Gulls but is very variable. The head is dark brown in the summer and white with dark patches in winter. This is the noisy Gull that is most noticeable when ducks are being fed.

Three other species occur regularly but are not so numerous—Common Gull, Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

## Swans

There are several species of Swan which may be encountered in the Borough. The Mute Swan is the only naturally occurring species.

### Mute Swan >

A common site on many of our ponds. The male and female are identical but the juveniles are brown/grey.



### < Whooper Swan

This is unusual in that this species should only occur nearer Britain's coasts in winter, but we have a pair moving around the Borough all year.



Two other species of Swan are occasionally seen in the area. These are Black Swan and Black-necked Swan. Both are escapees from wildfowl collections.