

Bird species around QUEEN'S VALLEY RESERVOIR

Raw water storage reservoir



Although many of the reservoir's resident bird species, such as coot, moorhen, mallard and domesticated geese, have a strong association with the areas of fresh water, the surrounding woodlands, hedgerows, fields and scrub margins provide ideal habitat for many other small animals and birds at all times of the year. While some birds will be easy to see and identify, others are more secretive and can only be noticed by their songs or contact calls. Other birds that you may see include; cormorants, kestrels, owls and kingfishers.

We hope that discovering some of them will prove an enjoyable experience.



MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Moorhens are medium-sized water birds which are mostly brown and black with some white markings. They are omnivorous and eat plant material, small rodents and eggs and can be aggressively territorial during the breeding season.



LONG-TAILED TIT

Aegithalos caudatus

With its black, pink and white plumage and very long tail, the 'flying tea-spoon' is quite common around the Reservoir's tree-lined verges - revealed by its very distinct 'tsirrrp' contact calls. It is easier to spot when in its large family groups, moving acrobatically through the tree-line.



BLACKCAP SYLVIA *Atricapilla*

This small, slim and soft-grey coloured bird is often referred to as the 'northern nightingale' for its gloriously strong and beautiful song. The male has a jet-black cap while the female has a 'bonnet' of russet-brown.



DOMESTIC GOOSE *Anser Domesticus*

A large bird with a fat rear and upright in posture, domestic geese are marked in light browns, or completely covered in white feathers. Females lay up to 50 eggs per year, compared to 5-12 eggs for a wild goose.



CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

The male is especially colourful with his pinky-orange breast, chestnut back, grey head and striking white wing bars. Females are somewhat duller in colour with an overall brown plumage and distinctive white wing bars.



ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

The robin is a highly territorial species and quite aggressive towards other small birds. Its distinct song - sometimes strong and warbling, sometimes soft and melancholy - can be heard throughout the year, except for a few weeks in mid-summer.



MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

The Mallard is a medium-sized waterfowl living in wetlands and they eat water plants and small animals. The male birds (drakes) have a glossy green head and are grey on wings and belly, while the females have mainly brown-speckled plumage.



SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER

Certhia brachydactyla

This small bird is known as the 'tree-mouse'. With its greyish-brown upper-parts and cream-coloured tummy. Its song is quite loud and high, often heard from the top-most trunk and branches of mature trees.



GREAT TIT *Parus major*

The largest member of the tit family - and by far the noisiest! With its olive-green back, yellow breast and shiny black head, it has chosen our mature woodland for its abundance of caterpillars, spiders, bees and aphids.