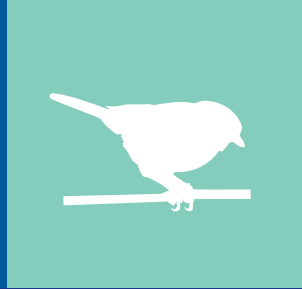


Bird species around VAL DE LA MARE RESERVOIR

Raw water storage reservoir



Because of the deep sided surrounds of the reservoir, the species most likely to be seen on the open water will be moorhen, mallard duck and cormorants, but the surrounding woodland, hedgerows, fields and scrub margins provide ideal habitat for many other species of small land birds at all times of the year. Other birds that you may see include; owls, kestrels, kingfishers and marsh harriers.

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.



DIFFICULT TO SPOT

GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Dendrocopos major

The size of a blackbird, woodpeckers are mostly black and white with a cream-coloured breast. Although both sexes have a bright red patch under the tail, only the male has the dash of crimson on the back of the head.



BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

A very recognisable species in all kinds of town and country habitat, many make their home here in specially erected nest-boxes. Its yellow underparts, green back, blue head and white cheeks make it one of the most colourful and easily identifiable of all woodland birds.

CORMORANT *Corvus Marinus*



Cormorants are medium-to-large seabirds. They have mainly dark plumage, and the bill is long, thin, and sharply hooked. Their feet have webbing between all four toes. All are fish-eaters, dining on small eels, fish, and even water snakes.



GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

This heavy-billed, chunky bird is a familiar sight in woodland with its 'wheezy' springtime call usually delivered from the highest point of a tree top. Olive-green in colour, it has a very distinctive canary-yellow patch on its wing and tail edge.



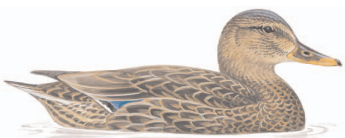
DIFFICULT TO SPOT

CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

Despite being an unfamiliar and difficult species to identify, this bird is probably one of the most heard of all woodland bird songs. A member of the warbler family, the plumage of the chiffchaff is dull olive-brown above and a pale buff below.

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.



DIFFICULT TO SPOT

DUNNOCK (HEDGE SPARROW)

Prunella modularis

Known as the 'shufflewing' because of its wing-flapping courtship display, the dunnock is an extremely shy bird but its high pitched musical warbling is frequently heard coming from low trees and hedgerows.



WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The wren is certainly one of the shyest of all European birds, spending most of its time skulking around in dense undergrowth looking for spiders and small beetles. Although its brown plumage may appear rather drab, when it cocks its short tail and delivers its incredibly loud and trilling song, nobody is in doubt as to its presence.