

List of birds of Great Britain

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322

The list of British birds comprises all those bird species which have occurred in a wild state in Great Britain. In general the avifauna of Britain is similar to that of Europe, although with fewer breeding species. There are 596 species of birds on the British, with the latest addition white-winged scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*).



The white-winged scoter is the largest of the three North American scoter species. It is characterised by its bulky shape and large bill.

This is the largest species of scoter.

Females range from 48–56 cm.

She is brown with pale head patches. The male ranges from 53–60 cm.

He is all black, except for white around the eye and a white speculum.

Ducks, geese and swans

- *The swans, ducks and geese are medium to large birds that are modified for an aquatic existence with webbed feet and bills which are flattened to a greater or lesser extent.*
- *In many ducks the male is colourful while the female is dull brown.*
- *The diet consists of a variety of animals and plants.*
- *The family is well represented in Britain, especially in winter when large numbers visit from Greenland, Scandinavia and Russia.*
- *There are about 160 species worldwide with 55 in Britain.*

Tundra swan
or Berwick's swan
(A winter visitor)



Pink-footed goose
A winter visitor)



Red-breasted
goose



American
wigeon



Grouse

- *Grouse are sturdy, medium-sized terrestrial birds of the northern Hemisphere.*
- *They have feathered feet and nostrils and short, rounded wings.*
- *They feed mainly on plant material and lay their eggs in a simple scrape on the ground.*
- *There are about 19 species worldwide, 4 in Britain.*

Red
grouse



Black
grouse



Pheasants, partridges and quail

- *These are terrestrial species, feeding and nesting on the ground.*
- *They are variable in size but generally plump, with broad and relatively short wings.*
- *There are about 155 species worldwide with 6 in Britain.*
- *4 of these were introduced for hunting or ornamental purposes but one has now apparently died out.*

Common pheasant



Divers

- *Divers are aquatic birds the size of a large duck, to which they are unrelated.*
- *They swim well, and fly but, because their legs are placed towards the rear of the body, are almost hopeless on land.*
- *They feed on fish and other aquatic animals.*
- *There are 5 species worldwide with 5 in Britain.*

Pacific diver



Albatrosses

- *The albatrosses are among the largest flying birds with long, narrow wings for gliding.*
- *The majority are found in the Southern Hemisphere with only vagrants in the North Atlantic.*
- *There are at least 13 species worldwide with 2 in Britain.*

Black-browed albatross



Shearwaters and petrels

- *These are highly pelagic birds with long, narrow wings and tube-shaped nostrils.*
- *They feed at sea on fish, squid and other marine life.*
- *There are about 77 species worldwide, 11 in Britain.*

Northern fulmar



New World warblers

- *A group of small, often colourful birds restricted to the New World.*
- *Most are arboreal and insectivorous.*
- *There are about 118 species worldwide.*
- *18 have occurred as vagrants in Britain.*

American redstart



Finches

- *Seed-eating passerine birds that are small to moderately large and have a strong beak, usually conical and in some species very large.*
- *There are about 176 species worldwide, 22 in Britain.*

European serin



And also there are many species of birds which live in Great Britain...

- Icterids
- Cardinals and relatives
- Longspurs
- Wagtails and pipits
- Sparrows
- Buntings and American sparrows
- Etc..

Questions:

1) How many species of birds in Great Britain?

2) Which of birds are aquatic?

3) Which of those birds are also found in Russia?