Spotter's wetland guide

See how many of these water birds you can spot from one of our scrapes, lagoons or ponds.

Pig-like squeal



Water rail

These shy birds are more often heard than seen. Local birds are joined by an influx from Northern Europe in winter.



Little egret

This small white heron can be spotted throughout the year. In winter they roost in numbers near the Ramsar hide.

Grey heron

Usually seen hunting in shallow water, these large birds nest in trees. A nesting group is known as a 'heronry' and they are noisy.

Common Sandpiper

They like lagoons and edges of scrapes but are occasional visitors at Arundel and only in solitary numbers.



Green Sandpiper

Look for it during autumn migration! Its white rump and greenish legs differ from the common sandpiper.



Lapwing

Recognisable by their striking plumage & rounded wings, they winter in the Arun Valley & breed at Arundel in spring.



Snipe Sept-Apr

A tricky bird to spot, these small well camouflaged waders skulk around the waters edge close to cover.



Jack snipe

Rarer at Arundel and squatter than common snipe it bobs its entire body up and down when it walks.





Oystercatcher

These waders have moved further inland in recent decades and can be found nesting here at Arundel in spring.



Black-headed gull

These birds only have a black head in the summer. In winter they have a white head with black 'ear' smudges.



Greylag goose

A common sight, these mottled grey geese are the bulkiest of our native geese and can be seen around the UK.



Canada goose

Canada geese are easy to spot by their long necks and black and white heads. They are very noisy and not native to the UK.



Our smallest duck, the teal dabbles on the waters surface to find seeds and small insects to eat.





Though a little dull at first sight, these ducks have beautifully patterned feathers if you see them close up.



Mallard

A familiar sight, the male mallard is more striking whilst the female is camouflaged to keep her safe whilst she sits on the nest.



Shelduck

These large ducks can be territorial during breeding season, defending 'their' patch of the water from other birds



Tufted duck

These smart little ducks dive underwater for their food. Watch the stream of bubbles as they swim below the surface



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