

NO EXPERIENCE? DON'T BE SHY – COME BIRDWATCHING WITH DI STAGG –

Index of Help Sheets:

BIRD-WATCHING HINTS: PART 1

- Right area of the country?
- Right environment? List of main environments...
- Right time of the year? Resident, Part-resident, Winter, Summer
- Size? How does it compare? Structure; wing ratio; tail, neck, legs, bill, etc
- Plumage? Not easy...
- Behaviour (JIZZ)?
- Song / call? A difference: males sing; females (and males) call (talk).
- Writing notes: What to Record?
- Those confusing bird books! Official order of Species...

BIRDWATCHING HINTS: PART 2

- What's the jargon I should know? Bins, Scope, Boot-up, Juvs, LBJs
- The bird authorities in Britain and reserve owners: BTO, RSPB, NT, SNT, EH
- WHO IS WHO? Birdwatchers, Birders, Twitchers, Recorders, Ringers
- Visiting a bird hide: unspoken rules
- Coastal Migration Routes: SPRING, & AUTUMN + JUVS.

ENVIRONMENTS 1: COASTLANDS:

- North-Western remote islets:
- West Coast Cliffs and bays, topped with natural rocky grass and wild flowers:
- Scottish Isles – remote, with flat land round sheltered bays, lochs, reedbeds:
- Far North-Western Coastal Pasture and farmland:
- North-western bleak, island moors:
- Scottish Rugged Exposed coasts:
- North-western flat exposed coast: sheltered bays, inlets; small villages, fields –
- North-Western shingle beach: enclosed lagoons with brackish water; rough grazing
- North-Western secluded sea loch surrounded by hills:
- North-Western seabird breeding cliffs: order of ledges
- Western headlands and sandy beaches:
- Western headlands with rocky headlands and scrub:
- Northern firth: headlands, soft estuaries, shallow sandy bays – much of Norfolk
- Chalk cliffs & Rough Grazing: English Channel
- Dunes, links and sandy beaches: parts of Norfolk – mud or rocks when tide out
- Netherlands & Norfolk coastlines: wet pasture, reedy swamps, shallow sea –
- Coastal Lagoon + shingle Islands and spits + gravel pits: English Channel
- Coastal Reserve: lagoons and islands: RSPB, NWT, reedbeds, scrapes, thickets

CREAKS AND ESTUARIES: provide a sanctuary for migrating birds to rest and refuel

- **Marsh and Muddy Creeks:** Norfolk/Suffolk: beach, muddy estuary, small quay –

- **Estuaries with coastal industrial development: Braydon Water; The Wash**
- **Estuary: sandbar and stream:**
- **Wide Muddy Estuary:**
- **Estuary: saltmarsh and mudflat:**
- **Estuary: pasture and marsh – no saltmarsh, creeks in sheep-cropped grass**

PIGEONS & DOVES: Quick Hints and Folk Lore

Who? When? Where? Eats what? Colour? Shape? Flight? Sounds? Song? Call? Interesting Facts.

- **Wood Pigeons (very common resident + large migrating flocks)**
- **Collared Doves (very common, spreading through the country)**
- **Feral Pigeons (very common in cities)**
- **Rock Doves (very rare: Scotland only. Replaced by feral cousins)**
- **Stock Doves (not common resident)**
- **Turtle Doves (very rare summer migrant)**

CORVIDS: BIG BLACK BIRDS? MOSTLY... Quick Hints and Folk Lore

Who? When? Where? Colour? Shape? Flight? Voice? Seen? Interesting Facts.

- **Carrion Crows (resident, common, + some migrants)**
- **Hooded Crows (resident in Scotland)**
- **Rooks (very common resident + many continental migrants in winter)**
- **Jackdaws (common resident)**
- **Magpies (common resident)**
- **Jays (fairly common resident)**
- **Ravens (rare resident in mountains, spreading south-west)**
- **Choughs (Very rare resident, Welsh coast, Cornwall)**

SWANS & GEESE – WHITE, GREY & BLACK: Quick Hints and Folk Lore

Who? When? Where? Colour? Shape? Flight? Voice? Seen? Interesting Facts.

WHITE:

- **Mute Swan (Resident, Common),**
- **Whooper Swan (Winter, rare in East Norfolk),**
- **Bewick Swan (Winter – often in Broadland) –**
- **New Zealand BLACK SWAN: introduced but rare; one on Broads)**

GREY:

- **Greylag Goose (Resident, Common),**
- **Pink-Footed Goose (Winter, Norfolk, in their 100s if you can find them!),**
- **White-Fronted Goose (winter, rare),**
- **Bean Goose (Winter, rare)**

BLACK (+ grey or white, etc):

- **Canada Goose (Resident, less than Greylags in Norfolk)**
- **Brent Goose (Winter, North Norfolk)**
- **Barnacle Goose (Winter, some in Norfolk)**
- **Egyptian Goose (actually a Shelduck! – Resident in Broadland, rare in the rest of the country: originally introduced; now feral.)**

'LITTLE' BLACKBIRDS & THRUSHES: Quick Hints and Folk Lore

Who? When? Where? Colour? Shape? Flight? Voice? Seen? Interesting Facts.

- **Blackbird: (Resident, Common)**
- **Song Thrush: (Resident, falling numbers)**
- **Mistle Thrush: (Resident, not so common)**
- **Redwing: (Winter not common)**
- **Fieldfare: (Winter, not common)**
- **Ring Ousel: (Rare Migrant Mar/Apr Sep/Oct Norfolk Coastal areas +Summer moorland)**

THE TIT FAMILY: Quick Hints and Folk Lore

Who? When? Where? Colour? Shape? Flight? Voice? Seen? Interesting Facts.

- **Great Tit (Resident, common)**
- **Blue Tit (Resident, common)**
- **Coal Tit (Resident, common)**
- **Long-Tailed Tit (Resident, quite common, in groups)**
- **Marsh Tit (Resident, not so common, not in marshes > oak & beech woods!)**
- **Willow Tit (Rare Resident)**
- **Crested Tit (Very Rare Resident, Scottish conifer forests only).**
- **Bearded Tit or Bearded Reedling (Very Rare Resident, in Norfolk reedbeds)**