

Marden Quarry



North
Tyneside
Council

NWG
living water



Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

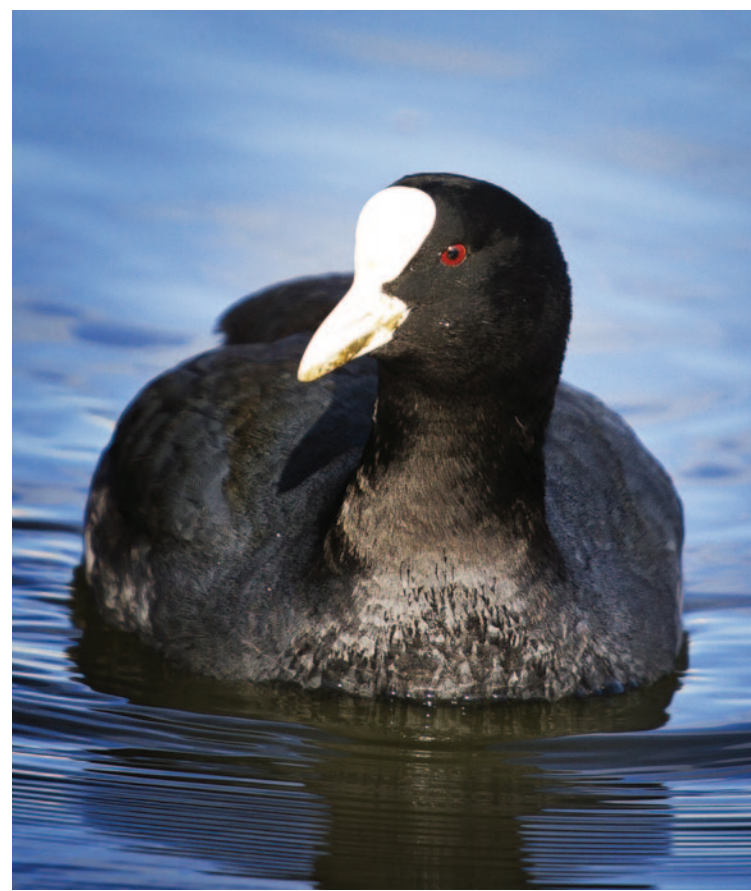
A distinctive goose with a large, brown body, small black head and white chin patch. Originally found in northern North America, it was introduced to England in the late 17th Century.

Lifespan: 6 years.

Food: Vegetation: grasses, roots, clover, aquatic plants.

Breeding: Mates for life, with one brood per year of 5-7 eggs.

Did you know? Canada geese prefer mates who are the same size as themselves.



Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Distinctive all-black water bird with very large, padded feet and a large white patch (shield) above the beak, which gave rise to the phrase “as bald as a coot”.

Lifespan: 5 years.

Food: Aquatic vegetation and small aquatic animals.

Breeding: Mates for life and nests in waterside vegetation. Two broods per year, of 5-8 eggs.

Did you know? Coots are very aggressive for their size! They will fight other coots over food and may even kill their smallest chick if there is not enough to eat.



Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

A common large grey goose, ancestor to most UK farm geese. The adult has a brown-grey body, orange bill and orange-pink feet.

Lifespan: 8 years.

Food: Land and aquatic plants.

Breeding: Usually mates for life and nests close to water. One brood per year of 4-6 eggs.

Did you know? The greylag goose was domesticated over 3,000 years ago, in Ancient Egypt. They were associated with love and fertility in Ancient Greece and Rome.



Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

A textbook duck! Breeding males have metallic green heads, chestnut chest, and metallic purple wing bars. Females are brown with similar wing bars.

Lifespan: 3 years.

Food: Anything they can find or beg, on water or land.

Breeding: Promiscuous when breeding, but once nesting they mate for life. One brood per year of 7-15 eggs.

Did you know? The ancestor of most domestic ducks, they hybridise easily with many other duck species.



Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

A medium-sized diving duck, with a small crest. Males have a white belly, yellow eye and a black tuft on the head. Females have a brown belly.

Lifespan: 4 years. **Food:** Molluscs, aquatic insects, some vegetation.

Breeding: Mates for life and nests in dense vegetation, close to water. One brood of 6-14 eggs per year.

Did you know? The ‘tufties’ who breed at Marden Quarry will migrate to Southern Europe or Northern Africa for a much warmer winter.



Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

A very tall, distinct waterbird with dark grey upper body, pale grey below and pinky-yellow beak on a long neck. Uses its spear-like beak on fish and amphibians. Northern herons migrate south for better winters.

Lifespan: 5 years. **Food:** Apex predator! Eats fish, amphibians, insects, even small or young birds.

Breeding: Mates for life, nesting in large colonies in trees or on cliffs. Usually produces one brood of 2-6 eggs.

Did you know? The English surnames Earnshaw, Hernshaw, Herne, and Heron are all linked to grey herons. The suffix ‘shaw(e)’ means woodland; Jack Hernshaw means Jack from the Heron Woods.



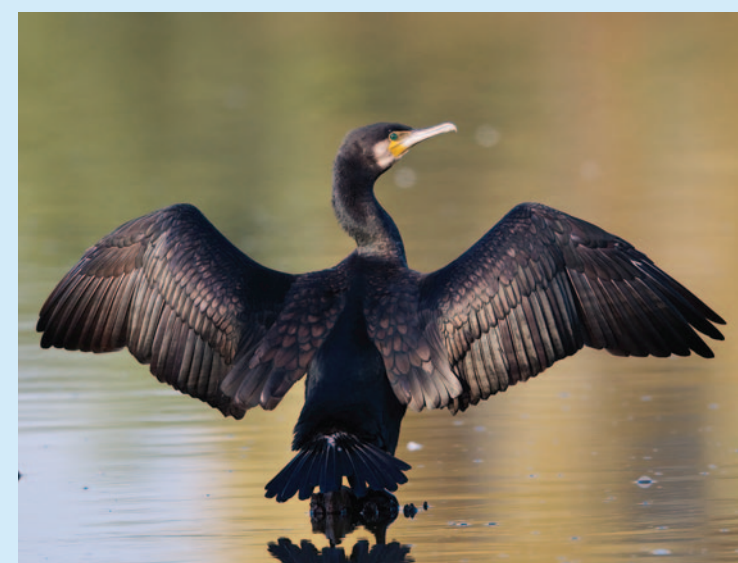
Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

A small-medium sized dark waterbird that closely resembles its relation, the Eurasian coot. Blackish body with a red and yellow beak, and long greenish legs with large feet.

Lifespan: 3 years. **Food:** Aquatic plants and invertebrates.

Breeding: Monogamous nesters (but promiscuous breeders). Nest amongst water vegetation, producing two broods of 5-7 eggs.

Did you know? Moorhens can use their huge feet to run on water as they take flight.



Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The cormorant is a large, dark-coloured diving bird and excellent swimmer. Black and brown feathers with white patches on their sides.

Lifespan: 10 years. **Food:** Fish.

Breeding: Mates for life and reuses the same nesting site each year for one brood of 3-5 eggs.

Did you know? Its scientific name of Phalacrocorax means ‘balding raven’. This bird is common all over the world and is used by some traditional Asian communities to catch fish.



Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

A small gull with a black-chocolate head in breeding season and white head with ear spots in winter. Nests in colonies and found from eastern North America to Japan. Red-orange beak and legs.

Lifespan: 11 years.

Food: Omnivorous, they will eat anything. They often take fish and aquatic invertebrates when near water.

Breeding: Monogamous breeders who nest in large colonies, often with other species of gulls or terns. One brood of 1-3 eggs.

Did you know? Its scientific name used to be Larus ridibundus, meaning ‘gull that laughs’ or ‘laughing gull’. The genus name has now been changed to Chroicocephalus, meaning ‘coloured head’.