

Birds

on the Northmoor Trust Estate



Sedge warbler



Kingfisher

With over 120 bird species using our estate for roosting, feeding and breeding, you're sure to have some good sightings.



Download bird songs onto your mp3 player from our website at www.northmoortrust.co.uk to help you identify bird songs.

You can easily increase the number of birds you see and hear by taking a walk around the Northmoor Trust Estate.

Bird Walk on the Northmoor Trust Estate

Enjoy a bird walk around the Northmoor Trust Estate by starting at Church Meadow by St Peter's Church in Little Wittenham.

Birds around Church Meadow

When walking across Church Meadow in spring and summer listen out for blackbird, song thrush, robin, wren and chaffinch. All have distinctive songs – see how many you can identify.

As you cross Church Meadow, watch the house martins (with their white rumps) and swallows hawking insects low over the grass. Higher up in the sky, keep an eye open for kestrel, buzzard and the red kite with its striking forked tail.

The estate is special for birds because:

- open grassland, ponds, scrub, hedgerows and mature woodland provide a variety of habitats.
- the adjacent River Thames is a major migration route.
- for many years the reserve has been protected from disturbance and pesticides.



River Birds

The River Thames along the edge of the estate is teeming with bird life. As well as the common water birds, moorhen, coot, mallard and mute swan, look for goosander during the winter months and the great crested grebe with its distinctive ear tufts during spring and early summer. Be patient and watch carefully. Perhaps you will be rewarded with a sighting of the kingfisher, a bright flash of blue and a reddish-brown breast.

Goosander



Bird Hide

Bring your binoculars for the bird hide down by the river and use the board to help us keep a record of the birds seen on our estate.

Heron



Woodland Birds

In the summer, as you enter the wood at the bridleway, stand still and listen for chiffchaff (which sings its name, “chiffchaff, chiffchaff”) and blackcap with its loud melodic warble. Both are summer migrants and spend the winter in the warmth of the Mediterranean and Africa.



Chiffchaff

Walking along the bridleway you’ll see some of the nest boxes fixed mainly to oak trees. Keep watch and you might see blue tit and great tit coming and going.



Tree Creeper

Look around for all the dead wood, this provides a perfect habitat for insects which provide food for birds.

As with most types of woodland, you will hear a lot more birds than you will see.

Walking along Star Walk, listen out for tree creeper and goldcrest with their very high-pitched calls. Along Broad Ride you should be able to hear blackcap and garden warbler.

Castle Hill

Walking along the outside of the wood and up to Castle Hill, listen out for the yellowhammer. With its well known call “a little bit of bread and no cheese” it is often heard and seen in the hedge by the car park. Also listen out for the corn bunting with its song that sounds like the “chinking” of keys.



Yellowhammer

Keep an eye on the website at www.northmoortrust.co.uk for our **Summer Migrants** and **Dawn Chorus** bird walks in May. Our website also has details about how you can adopt a Bird Box on our estate.



Visit Project Timescape to find out more about local wildlife and landscapes.

www.projecttimescape.co.uk



Red kite photo © John Hemmings