

# Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds

## Birds

The important thing when you are looking for birds is to walk slowly and quietly, looking and listening all of the time. Look for birds flying overhead, singing or feeding in the trees, feeding on the ground or, usually, flying off as you approach

See if you can spot any of these birds with the help of a few clues; see the text to the right of each bird photo.

### PLEASE NOTE:

It is illegal to interfere with nests or eggs. Please leave them alone and do not frighten the birds.

Birds egg collecting is also illegal.

Barnfield Sandbeds is the home of many species of birds.

Please respect their privacy and we will all be rewarded with many birds, to enjoy seeing and hearing in the future.

Thank You

On the following pages we have put together a worksheet with many of the Birds that can be found in the Barnfield Sandbeds. There is a photograph, and the name of the species, to help with identification - and a place for you to write in the date you saw them.

The photographs on the following pages are by kind permission of the North East Wildlife web site or photographs taken by Members of the Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds.

Copies of this work sheet and many others are available on our web site at [www.friendsofbarnfieldsandbeds.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbarnfieldsandbeds.co.uk)

The work sheets are presented in Adobe Reader PDF format which may be viewed from the website or printed out as required. If you see any birds not included on the following pages we would like to know about it so we can add it to our list. Please e-mail us –

[info@friendsofbarnfieldsandbeds.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofbarnfieldsandbeds.co.uk)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Robin</b></p>	<p><b>When Seen</b></p>
	<p>Everyone knows the cheerful robin with his red chest. They will come closer to people than almost any other wild bird. Both male and female look exactly the same and, unlike most other song birds, they both sing. Usually only male birds sing.</p> <p>They feed mostly on insects, spiders and other small creatures on or near the ground.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Great Tit</b></p>	<p><b>When Seen</b></p>
	<p>The great tit and blue tit are the two species most likely to be nesting in our nest boxes. But – how to tell which is which? Well, look at their names. The <i>great</i> tit is bigger than the blue tit and has a black head and a black stripe right down the middle of its yellow chest. It is an acrobatic little bird which searches the tops of trees for tiny insects and caterpillars. The great tit's call sounds like "Teacher Teacher"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Blackbird</b></p>	<p><b>When Seen</b></p>
	<p>The male blackbird is indeed a <i>black bird</i>, but the female is entirely <i>brown</i>. You will see the males sitting out on the tops of bushes, trees and buildings singing their beautiful, rambling song telling all other blackbirds that this is their patch – keep off! They hop around on the ground feeding on earthworms and bugs.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chaffinch</b></p> 	<p><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>The male chaffinch has a slate blue cap, pink chest and white wing bars, whereas the female bird is much drabber and buff coloured, a bit like a female house sparrow. Chaffinches often feed in groups on the ground and have a loud “pink pink” call</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b></p> 	<p><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>We have two sorts of woodpecker at Barnfields. Both are very shy. Listen for the great spotted drumming in Spring. Look for them in large trees with dead branches. You will probably hear their “tic tic” alarm call first, because the woodpecker will have seen you first and will be peeping out from the other side of the tree trunk!</p> <p>The male bird has a red patch on the back of his head – otherwise male and female birds are alike.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Green Woodpecker</b></p> 	<p><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>The green woodpecker feeds on ants in the Summer, so a good place to look out for them is Top Meadow. You will have to be very quiet and careful for they are very shy birds and will fly off the minute they see you. They also feed on insect grubs which burrow under the bark of the trees. The country name for them is the “yaffle” – which describes the sound they make.</p>

<p><b>Magpie</b></p> 	<p><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>Magpies are common birds which can be seen almost anywhere. They are large, black and white – and noisy! They build large domed nests of sticks in tall trees or thorn bushes. They are members of the crow family and, like other crows, will steal other birds' eggs and sometimes, chicks.</p>
<p><b>Collared Dove</b></p> 	<p><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>It is amazing to think that just over eighty years ago the collared dove did not exist in Britain. Now it is one of the most common garden birds. Smaller and more delicate than the wood pigeon, it is a lovely pale grey in colour with a black collar around the back of its neck. Their “coo” sounds as if they are moaning, “My Toe hurts my Toe hurts” over and over monotonously.</p>
<p><b>Buzzard</b></p> 	<p><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>Buzzards are now a common sight over Brewood and have been known to roost in the Sandbeds, You often hear their mewing call overhead and if you look up, you will see them circling on the thermals with large, outstretched wings. Like the bird in the picture, they can also be seen in the fields catching earthworms.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Carrion Crow</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>You are almost certain to see carrion crows on your walk. They are completely black with no pale patch around their beaks like rooks. They will scold you as you invade their territory with loud, harsh caws. They build an untidy nest of twigs high up in the fork of a tree.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Goldfinch</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>Keep a sharp look out for these very pretty finches usually feeding on thistle and teasel seeds. The old countryman's name for them is "seven coloured linnnet". Can you find seven colours on their plumage? A flock of goldfinches is called a "charm".</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wood Pigeon</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>When Seen</b></p> <p>To farmers and gardeners wood pigeons are public enemy number one, for they arrive in huge numbers just after a new crop has been planted and scoff the lot! They are the largest of all pigeons and their wings make a loud clatter as they fly off. An old gardener, complaining about them stealing his peas said that they sat on his wall saying "Plant more peas you fool". Listen to them coo. What do you think?</p>