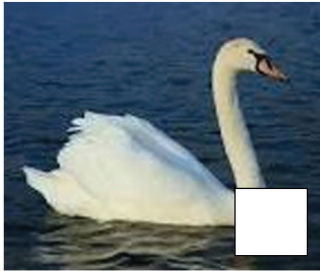


Wildlife Nature Trail



The mute swan is a very large white waterbird. It has a long S-shaped neck, & an orange bill with black at the base of it. Flies with its neck extended and regular slow wingbeats. We have as many as 6 birds here and sometimes they fly off and are not seen again for weeks.



Kingfishers are small unmistakable bright blue and orange birds of slow moving or still water. They fly rapidly, low over water, and hunt fish from bankside perches surface. They are vulnerable to hard winters and habitat degradation through pollution or unsympathetic management of watercourses. We have only one bird here that we see very occasionally.



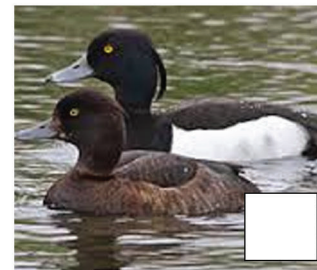
Brahman Chicken the name is from the Brahma putra River in India. Some guess that the Brahma was developed from the Chinese Shanghai and the Chittagong's during the early days of settlement in California. The Brahma chicken breed has been recognized in the American Poultry Association since 1874.



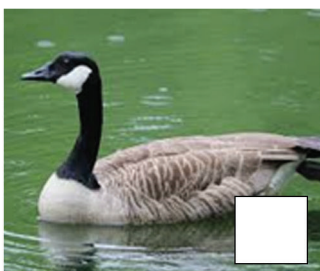
The mallard is a large and heavy looking duck. It has a long body and a long and broad bill. The male has a dark green head, a yellow bill, is mainly purple-brown on the breast and grey on the body. The female is mainly brown with an orange bill. Sometimes we have as many as 60 birds on our lakes.



The Coot. Is all-black and larger than its cousin, the moorhen, it has a distinctive white beak and 'shield' above the beak which earns it the title 'bald'. Its feet have distinctive lobed flaps of skin on the toes, which act instead of webs when swimming. It patters noisily over the water before taking off and can be very aggressive towards others



The tufted duck is a medium-sized diving duck, smaller than a mallard. It is black on the head, neck, breast and back and white on the sides. It has a small crest and a yellow eye. In flight it shows an obvious white stripe across the back of the wing. It breeds in the UK across lowland areas of England, Scotland and Ireland. We mainly see them here during the breeding season during spring and into the summer.



Canada Goose. A large goose, with a distinctive black head and neck and large white throat patch. Introduced from N America, it has successfully spread to cover most of the UK. It forms noisy flocks and is often regarded as a nuisance in areas where large numbers occur on amenity grassland and parks.



Moorhens are blackish with a red and yellow beak and long, green legs. Seen closer-up, they have a dark brown back and wings and a more bluish-black belly, with white stripes on the flanks.

Wildlife Nature Trail



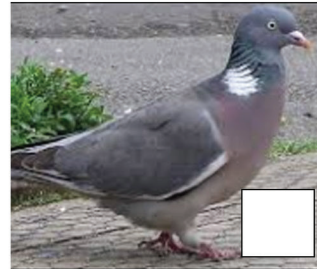
Snipe are medium sized, skulking wading birds with short legs and long straight bills. Both sexes are mottled brown above, with paler buff stripes on the back, dark streaks on the chest and pale under parts. They are widespread as a breeding species in the UK, with particularly high densities on northern uplands but lower numbers in southern lowlands. In winter, birds from northern Europe join resident birds. As many as 40 birds stay with us on Cuthbert island over the winter.



The all-black carrion crow is one of the cleverest, most adaptable of our birds. It is often quite fearless, although it can be wary of man. They are fairly solitary, usually found alone or in pairs. The closely related hooded crow has recently been split as a separate species. Carrion crows will come to gardens for food and although often cautious initially, they soon learn when it is safe, and will return repeatedly to take advantage of whatever is on offer.



With its noisy chattering, black-and-white plumage and long tail, there is nothing else quite like the magpie in the UK. When seen close-up its black plumage takes on an altogether more colourful hue with a purplish-blue iridescent sheen to the wing feathers, and a green gloss to the tail. Magpies seem to be jacks of all trades scavengers, predators and pest-destroyers, their challenging, almost arrogant attitude has won them few friends. Non-breeding birds will gather together in flocks.



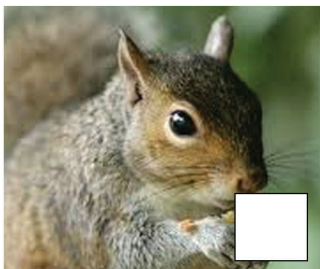
Pigeons and doves, share certain features, including small, rounded heads, small, slim bills with a small fleshy patch at the base, rounded bodies with dense, soft feathers, tapered wings and short, scaly legs, and cooing or crooning calls. The wild rock dove has long been domesticated and 'escaped' to live wild as the familiar town pigeon.



Not really a black-headed bird, more chocolate-brown - in fact, for much of the year, it has a white head. It is most definitely not a 'seagull' and is found commonly almost anywhere inland. Black-headed gulls are sociable, quarrelsome, noisy birds, usually seen in small groups or flocks, often gathering into larger parties where there is plenty of food, or when they are roosting.



Pipistrelle bats habitat. Pipistrelles roost in trees and under external features of buildings, such as hanging tiles and soffits. They feed along woodland edges, in open woodland, suburban gardens, marshes and over water (2). Hibernation occurs in crevices in buildings and trees as well as in bat boxes.



There are over 265 species of squirrel worldwide. When a squirrel is scared and feels that it is in danger, it will at first remain motionless. Squirrels are very trusting animals, and are of the very few wild animal species which will eat out of a person's hand.



Spanish explorers brought guinea pigs back from the New World to Europe, where they were kept as exotic pets. Guinea pigs, also called cavies, are a domesticated species of rodent. They were originally native to South America. However, they have been popular for thousands of years as pets and as food, and this species no longer exists in the wild.

Wildlife Nature Trail



This is Smugie he is a feral Cat that thinks he owns the place. A feral cat is a cat that has been born to other ferals or from stray cats; these ferals are unaccustomed to human interaction. Feral cats are usually considered to be distinct from stray cats, which are socialized cats who no longer live in homes, but could potentially be reintroduced successfully.



German Shepherds are a popular selection for use as working dogs. They are especially well known for their police work, being used for tracking criminals, patrolling troubled areas and detection and holding of suspects. Our pet dog Kayla lives here and keeps us safe at night.



The Field Mouse is a generic term for a range of mice in the UK. The true field mouse is the Long Tailed Field Mouse, or Wood Mouse and it is one of our most endearing / or terrifying animals depending on your point of view. It does however provide a vital food source for many of the UK's carnivorous creatures as well as being a major pest. As shown in the above picture, they have a dark brown fur with enormous eyes and ears for their size. They grow to about 10cm long and weigh 30 grams or so full grown.



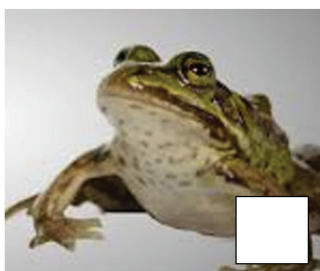
Honey bees are social insects and live in a nest or Hive which may contain several thousand workers. Honey Bees Often confused with wasps because they have a similar shape.



Butterflies and moths are indicators of a healthy environment & healthy ecosystems. They indicate a wide range of other invertebrates, which comprise over two-thirds of all species. Areas rich in butterflies and moths are rich in other invertebrates. These collectively provide a wide range of environmental benefits, including pollination and natural pest control.



However, wasps have distinct yellow/black bands around the abdomen whereas bees have a more non-descript light brown/brownish-yellow colour.



Frogs begin their lives as tadpoles that are hatched in the water from tiny jelly-covered eggs. The mother frog will lay thousands of eggs at one time. The jelly has an awful taste, which protects the eggs from predators until they are ready to hatch. Tadpoles are born with gills, just like a fish, so that they can breathe under water. They have a big head and a long tail. They definitely do not look like frogs, yet! Tadpoles have a tough life. It's a good thing they are fast swimmers to escape the many other creatures that hunt them in the pond. They are a favorite food to fish and water beetles.



Solitary bees and bumble bees are easily overlooked but they are known to pollinate plants more efficiently than honeybees. They live in burrows in the soil and dried stems of dead plants. They are not aggressive and rarely sting. We have created a special habitat for them down at bug city.

Wildlife Nature Trail



This brown bug lives in water. It has long hind legs, covered in hairs, that it uses rather like paddles to swim. Its middle legs are slightly shorter, but its front legs are very short and are used to scoop up food. Water boatmen are common and widespread throughout Britain – you'll find them in most weedy ponds, lakes and slow-flowing rivers. They spend most of their time at the bottom, coming to the surface only to renew their air supply.



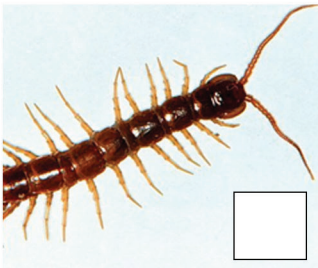
A maggot is the larvae of a fly. In other words, a fly lays eggs which turn into larvae (maggots), which become flies, which lay more eggs, and so on.



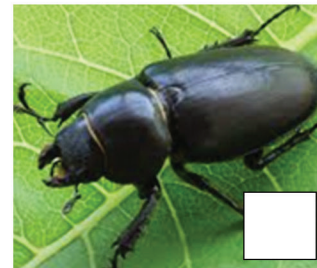
Worm composting is a fantastic way of recycling all those vegetable scraps, banana skins and tea bags from your kitchen! A worm bin is a container housing a colony of special worms, known as Brandlings, Tiger Worms or Redworms. Worm bins are ideal for households with small or no gardens, as they produce a small amount of compost and a liquid, which can be used as plant food.



Only 5% of the slug population is above ground at any one time. The other 95% is underground digesting your seedlings, laying eggs, & feeding on roots and seed sprouts. A slug's blood is green. Most British slugs eat rotting vegetation, but a few are carnivorous. Slugs do play an important role in ecology by eating decomposing vegetation. A slug lays 20-100 eggs several times a year. Slug eggs can lay dormant in the soil for years & then hatch when conditions are right.



there are 57 different species of centipede in the UK, they can be different colours and different lengths, but they all have lots of legs. Although the name centipede suggests that they must have 100 legs, this is actually not the case. The Common centipede has made itself at home throughout the British Isles, they can be found in gardens, in woodland, at the seashore and will happily move into your greenhouse or tool shed. They are found at all times of year but are most numerous in spring and autumn.



Around 40% of all known insect species are beetles, this equals about 400,000 species and some estimates suggest there could be as many as 3 - 8 million beetle species on Earth.



The common woodlouse occurs in moist places in many habitats, and is frequently found under bark and amongst leaf litter in gardens and woodlands (1). This species avoids dry habitats, and unlike many woodlice, it can tolerate acid soils



Snails are common name for gastropod molluscs that can be split into three groups, land snails, sea snails and freshwater snails. Snails can have lungs or gills depending on the species and their habitat. Some marine snails actually can have lungs and some land based snails can have gills. Snail-like animals that do not have a shell are usually called slugs. Most snail species have a ribbon-like tongue called a radula that contains thousands of microscopic teeth. The radula works like a file, ripping food up into tiny pieces.