



Activity Bird Calls in the Park

What's that bird? Try your hand at spotting birds by their songs?

Even experts have difficulty identifying small birds in the middle of trees so they rely on the songs or calls they make. It's the best way of surveying bird numbers as males need to sing to attract a mate and to warn off other males.

Below is a list of some of the more common birds found in the Park, together with clues that will help you to identify them.

Size (If you can see it)	Where is it singing from?	What does it sound like?	Likely bird	Check list
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On or near water

Small	Near water edge	<i>twitter</i>	Wagtail	
Small	Very close to water	<i>cheep</i>	Kingfisher	
Duck size	On the water	<i>creck</i>	Coot	
Duck size	On the water	<i>quack</i>	Mallard	
Duck size	On the water	<i>shrill whistle</i>	Wigeon, Pochard	
Largish	Open ground near water	<i>peewit</i>	Lapwing (Peewit)	
Large	Trees overhanging water	<i>raucous</i>	Cormorant	
Large & tall	Water edge	<i>raucous</i>	Heron	
Enormous	On the water or near the water edge	<i>hiss</i> (like a snake)	Swan	

In the air

Small, long tail	In the air (always)	<i>scream</i>	Swift	
Small, long tail	In the air or on thin branches	<i>twitter</i>	Swallow	
Smallish	In the air (v.high)	<i>trilling melody</i>	Sky Lark	
Large & long	In the air	<i>raucous</i>	Heron	
Very large	In the air	<i>honk</i>	Goose	
Even larger, long neck & white	In the air	<i>honk</i>	Swan	

In trees

Very small	Conifers	<i>pip, pip</i>	Gold Crest	
Small	Trees	<i>tweet, cheap</i>	Choose from: Coal Tit Marsh Tit Willow Tit Blue Tit	
Small, Long tail; lots together	Trees, bushes & hedges	<i>peep, peep</i>	Long-tailed Tit	
Medium	Trees	<i>tuneful, in short bursts & repeated</i>	Song Thrush	
Medium	Trees	<i>tuneful, in short bursts, not repeated</i>	Mistle Thrush	
Medium	Trees	<i>tuneful, throaty warble</i>	Blackbird	
Largish	Trees (at night)	<i>screech</i>	Barn Owl	
Largish	Trees (at night)	<i>hoot</i>	Tawny Owl	



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In woodland

Largish	Woodland	<i>screech</i>	Jay	
Large	From woodland	<i>Stone tapping on branch</i>	Woodpecker	
Large	Woodland or open ground	<i>Yack, yack</i>	Green Woodpecker	
Large	In trees, near reeds	<i>cuckoo</i>	Cuckoo	

In or near reeds

Small	Reeds with trees	grasshopper	Grasshopper Warbler	
Small	Reeds with trees	<i>tuneful but grating</i>	Sedge Warbler	
Small	Reeds	<i>grating whistle</i>	Reed Warbler	

In or on hedges

Small	On top of bush or hedge	<i>a bit of bread & no cheese</i>	Yellow Hammer	
Small	On or in hedge	<i>not quite tuneful</i>	Reed Bunting	
Small	On or in hedge	<i>like a bowler with long note at end</i>	Chaffinch	

Other habitats

Tiny, brown	Low down in thick cover	<i>beautiful, short, very loud song</i>	Wren	
Small	Almost anywhere	<i>bicycle pump</i>	Great Tit	
Small	Round buildings	<i>persistent cheep</i>	House Sparrow	
Small	Cover	<i>beautiful & tuneful</i>	Choose from: Robin Hedge Sparrow Linnet Black Cap White Throat	
Medium	Thick cover at night	<i>musical trills</i>	Nightingale	
Large	Anywhere	<i>caw but like a woodpecker, a telephone or car engine</i>	Carrion Crow	
Smaller	Buildings, trees, ground	<i>caw</i>	Jackdaw	

Once you are familiar with a particular bird, see if you can map its territory. No one has done this in the Park before. You can download a map of the Park from our website at www.hocp.co.uk.

Good luck.