



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

#### In the air

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

#### In trees

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



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## In woodland

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

## In or near reeds

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

## In or on hedges

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

## Other habitats

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

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](http://www.hocp.co.uk).

Good luck.