

## **Background: Macrofauna that may be found within the gardens**

### **Mammals**

Western hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*  
Northern mole *Talpa europaea*  
Common shrew *Sorex araneus*  
Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentoni*  
Noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*  
Common pipistrelle bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*  
Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*  
Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*  
Field vole *Microtus agrestis*  
Northern water vole *Arvicola terrestris* (possible sighting)  
Common rat *Rattus norvegicus*  
Wood mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*  
House mouse *Mus musculus*

### **Birds**

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*  
Buzzard *Buteo buteo*  
Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*  
Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*  
Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*  
Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*  
Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*  
Stock Dove *Columba oenas*  
Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*  
Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*  
Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*  
Swift *Apus apus* (summer)  
Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*  
Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (on back field)  
Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (summer)  
House Martin *Delichon urbica* (summer)  
Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*  
Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Jay *Garrulus glandarius*  
Magpie *Pica pica*  
Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*  
Rook *Corvus frugilegus*  
Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone*  
Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
Dunnock *Prunella modularis*  
Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* (summer)

### **Birds continued-**

Willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (summer)  
Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (summer)  
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*  
Robin *Erithacus rubecula*  
Blackbird *Turdus merula*  
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*  
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*  
Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*  
Coal Tit *Parus ater*  
Great Tit *Parus major*  
Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*  
Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*  
Trecreeper *Certhia familiaris*  
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*  
Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*  
Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

### **Background: Some of the larger insects (mesofauna) that may be seen**

#### **Butterflies**

Large White  
Small White  
Orange-tip  
Small Copper  
Common Blue  
Peacock  
Red Admiral  
Painted Lady  
Small Tortoiseshell  
Comma  
Meadow Brown  
Speckled Wood  
Wall Brown

and others, as well as moths.

#### **Some dragonflies that may be seen**

Broad-bodied chaser  
Common darter  
Ruddy darter  
Southern hawker  
Brown hawker  
Emperor

### **Fungi (Mesoflora) that may be seen**

There are many species of mushrooms and toadstools that may be seen in the gardens, particularly in September and October.

Some to look out for are:

*Boletus* species

*Russula* species

*Coprinus comatus* (Shaggy Ink Cap)

*Amanita muscaria* (Fly Agaric)

*Lycoperdon perlatum* (Common Puffball)

Polypore species

and many more...

### **Sources:**

Hamlyn Guide to Birds of Britain & Europe (Bruun/Delin/Svensson)

Collins Guide to the Mammals of Britain & Europe (Corbet/Ovenden)

Collins Guide to Butterflies and Day-flying Moths (Chinery)

Mushrooms of Britain and Europe (Sterry)

Field Guide to the Wildlife of Britain (Chinery)

Collins Guide to Wild Flowers (Fitter)

Collins Guide to Pests & Diseases (Buczacki/Harris)

Many web sites!

### **Habitat: Pond**

There are three large ponds at Grappenhall Heys – Beech Pond, Wall Pond and Heron Pond. They were originally marl pits, a clay quarried for use as a fertiliser. It is known that the Parrs kept ornamental waterfowl on the ponds, and no doubt they would have been stocked with fish as well.

Today, they are home to mallard, moorhen, kingfisher and visiting herons. You will also see ornamental fish such as carp, goldfish and golden orph, as well as native species such as stickleback, minnow and perch. If you are lucky, you may also catch sight of a frog, toad or newt.

In summer, you may see a variety of dragonflies around the ponds (see list), and by night they are the haunt of Daubenton's bat. As for the smaller creatures (mini-beasts!) a pond dip may collect dragonfly larvae, ram's horn snails, water boatmen, water flea and many others.

### **Habitat: Trees and woodland**

A tree may be a habitat in itself, supporting a vast range of insects and fungi within its bark and leaves, as well as providing food and shelter to birds and mammals.

There are many mature trees within the gardens, mainly of beech (including a magnificent cut-leaved specimen) and oak, but also pine, cedar and holly.

The area surrounding these trees will also be home to a vast number of insects, spiders, molluscs, crustaceans, small mammals and fungi, living amongst the leaf litter and rotting timber.

### **Habitat: Flower beds and vegetable plots**

These areas are regularly cultivated, the soil hoed, fertilisers added and plants cut back or harvested. This will have an affect on the wildlife present. However, because the plants are well looked after a variety of creatures ('pests') will take advantage of this. Examples include aphids, caterpillars, slugs, weevils, wireworms etc.