

Kingfisher

Often named as Britain's favourite bird, the Kingfisher is a small, orange and blue dart of a bird. Listen for a loud 'peep' call at your local river or lake and look across the water for a fast-moving bolt of electric blue. As the name suggests, the Kingfisher feeds on fish, which it hunts by diving into the water and spearing with its long bill. They nest in holes in banks.

STAR BIRD



Bill Cooper (Alamy)

Little Grebe

A tiny waterbird with a trilling whinny call, the Dabchick is often a shy bird, readily heading to cover.



Chris Cornerall (Alamy)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Mainly coming inland for the summer breeding season; a mid/dark grey-backed large gull.



David Chapman (Alamy)

Sand Martin

A small brown swallow arriving in spring and nesting in sand banks, often feeding over water.



Paul Kimberland (Alamy)

Reed Bunting

The commonest waterside bunting, the Reed Bunting is superficially sparrow-like, but lovely.



dickwinkiel (Alamy)

Reed Warbler

A small, drab, brown, reed-loving warbler, it's a summer visitor and real waterside bird.



Jasmine Coy (Alamy)

Little Egret

Small, white, water-loving heron. Dark bill and yellow feet. Increasing in numbers across the country.



Mike Larne (Alamy)

Cormorant

Big, blackish and unmistakable, the Cormorant spends half its time fishing, the rest perched in a tree.



Calum Dickson (Alamy)

NEXT MONTH

STEP 3 Woodland birding

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