

Little Egret

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Length: 60cm Wingspan: 92cm Weight: M/F 450g Habitat: Lakes, marsh, flooded fields and estuaries.

> Mostly small fish, amphibians, large insects, but a wide variety of animals.

Lifespan: 5 years

Diet:

The elegant neck plumes of an egret in breeding plumage were once more valuable than gold. Smuggled into Europe they fetched £15 an ounce(28g) (about €1000 at today's prices), with each Little Egret producing about 1g of plumes.





Length: 14cm Wingspan: 26cm Weight: M/F 24g Habitat: Forest, woodland, farmland. Diet: Summer invertebrates, otherwise mostly seeds. The chaffinch has widest diet of the finches.

The female has the same pattern as the male but the colour is drab pale grey-brown.







Mistle Thrush

_ength:	27cm
Ningspan:	45cm
Neight:	M/F 130g
labitat:	Forest, woodland and towns.
Diet:	Invertebrates, also berries in autumn and winter.
_ifespan:	3 years

One of our earliest breeders (eggs are often laid in February), the Mistle Thush probably gets its name from a liking for mistletoe berries. It will noisily defend any fruiting bush it happens to find against all newcomers. Males & females look similar.





Length: 24cm Wingspan: 36cm Weight: M/F 100g Habitat: Woodland, scrub, towns. Diet: Mainly insects and earthworms. Also fruit, mostly that has fallen to the ground.

Males are black and females are chocolate brown.







Cormorant

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Length:90cmWingspan:145cmWeight:M: 2.5kg F: 2.1kgHabitat:Larger lakes, rivers and the
coast.Diet:Fish, mostly by diving from
surface.Lifespan:5 years

Their plumage is not waterproof, so they often stand on rocks, wings out-stretched to dry off after fishing. Males & females look similar.







Length: 18cm Wingspan: 26cm Weight: M/F 18g Habitat: Banks of swift streams, rivers and lakes. Diet: Small invertebrates, taken from the ground or in flight. Lifespan: 3 years

The Female has a white belly.







Goldfinch

Length: 12cm Wingspan: 24cm Weight: Habitat:

M/F 17g

Woodland, farmland, open country.

Diet:

Small seeds especially teasel, thistles and knapweed. They eat some invertebrates in summer.

Lifespan: 2 years

In males the red colour extends behind the eye.





Length: 14cm Wingspan: 24cm Weight: M/F 18g Habitat: Forest, woodland and towns. Diet: Invertebrates especially butterflies, beetles and spiders. In winter they also

Lifespan: 3 years

The black stripe on the belly of a male Great Tit is an indicator of its status; larger stripes are more attractive to females.

eat seeds and fruit.







Lapwing

Length: 30cm Wingspan: 84cm Weight: Habitat:

M/F 230g

Pasture, wet meadow, on migration estuaries.

Diet:

Invertebrates from ground, they will feed at night, especially during a bright moon.

Lifespan: 5 years

Irish Lapwings are made up of residents, summer visitors from the Continent (France & Iberia) and winter visitors (from western & central Europe). There is some overlap between all three groups. Greatest numbers occur in Ireland between September & April. Males & females look similar.

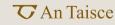




Length: 14cm Wingspan: 21cm Weight: M/F 18g Habitat: Forest, woodland and towns. Diet: Insects, especially beetles & their larvae. Robins will also eat fruit & seeds in winter.

Lifespan: 2 years

The Robin can readily be trained, with a bit of patience, to take mealworms from an outstretched hand. Male and Female look similar.







Length: 45cm Wingspan: 90cm Weight: Habitat:

M/F 310g

Pasture, farmland and open woodland.

Diet:

Invertebrates, especially beetles and earthworms. Also cereal grain, small vertebrates and carrion.

Lifespan: 5 years

Males & females look similar.







Length: 22cm Wingspan: 40cm Weight: M/F7 Habitat: Farml

40cm M/F 78g

Farmland, woodland and towns.

Diet:

Mostly insects (especially crane-fly larvae), fruit and seeds, mostly on ground, often near cattle. Male & Female look the same.

Lifespan: 5 years





Length: 12cm Wingspan: 22cm Weight: 15g Habitat: Woodland Diet: Seeds espe

Seeds especially spruce, pine, alder and birch. They will eat some invertebrates in summer.

Lifespan: 2 years

The female is a more muted version of the male and is more streaked.

Readily comes to garden feeders in mid-winter.







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Golden Plover

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Length: 28cm Wingspan: 72cm Weight: M/F 220g Habitat: Tundra, wet moor, on migration pasture & estuaries. Diet: Invertebrates, especially beetles and earthworms. Feeds extensively at night.

Lifespan: 5 years

A question about the flight speed of Golden Plover (now known to be up to 60mph) during a shooting party in Wexford, Ireland prompted Sir Hugh Beaver (then chairman of the brewery) to found the *Guinness Book of Records* in 1955.

Males & females look similar.

