

# Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits

## Special Protection Area

### TOP TRUMPS

The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) is an internationally important wetland area that runs from Northampton to Thrapston. The series of gravel pits and wetland habitats provide valuable resting and feeding conditions for huge concentrations of wintering waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. The gravel pits attract over 20,000 overwintering water birds each year.

Many of the birds that visit the Nene Valley are facing declines worldwide, as well as a loss of suitable places to feed and breed. The Nene Valley is a vital place for these globally-threatened species to thrive and we are very lucky that they visit us right on our doorstep.

Unfortunately, human activity including dog walking, cycling and running can unintentionally disturb the birds, affecting their feeding both near and on the shoreline, and within the surrounding grassland. When birds are disturbed, they might not visit otherwise suitable areas again, or be able to eat enough to survive. In winter the shorter daylight hours mean feeding time is even more precious.

By making sure that we are aware of the possible effects of our behaviour on these wonderful birds, we can limit the damage caused. And by working together to look after the Nene Valley, we can make sure the wildlife continues to thrive for us all to enjoy.

Here are a few ways you can help make this an area for birds and people to enjoy:

- Stay on existing pathways and viewing areas to prevent disturbance
- Look out for birds resting or feeding and move away if birds become alert or stop feeding
- Cycle on the specially designed greenway route
- Keep dogs on leads
- Exercise dogs away from the birds
- Fish in the designated areas only
- Clean up after your dog

You can visit the many country parks situated outside of the SPA, such as Fermyn Woods, Barnwell and Irchester Country Parks. For information on country parks near you, visit [www.northamptonshireparks.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireparks.co.uk)



### WIGEON

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

3799

Average migration (miles)	1400
UK population	440,000
Weight (g)	700
Wingspan (cm)	80
Average bill length (mm)	34.7

### GREAT-CRESTED GREBE

STATUS

GREEN

SPA NUMBERS

339

Average migration (miles)	530
UK population	19,000
Weight (g)	1045
Wingspan (cm)	88
Average bill length (mm)	51.8

### GREY HERON

STATUS

GREEN

SPA NUMBERS

68

Average migration (miles)	320
UK population	63,000
Weight (g)	1750
Wingspan (cm)	185
Average bill length (mm)	120

### LAPWING

STATUS

RED

SPA NUMBERS

3047

Average migration (miles)	750
UK population	650,000
Weight (g)	230
Wingspan (cm)	84
Average bill length (mm)	24.1

### SHOVELER

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

365

Average migration (miles)	1600
UK population	180,000
Weight (g)	700
Wingspan (cm)	77
Average bill length (mm)	66.1

### SNIPE

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

35

Average migration (miles)	950
UK population	1,000,000
Weight (g)	100
Wingspan (cm)	46
Average bill length (mm)	66.6

### TEAL

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

859

Average migration (miles)	1020
UK population	210,000
Weight (g)	300
Wingspan (cm)	61
Average bill length (mm)	53.0

### TUFTED DUCK

STATUS

GREEN

SPA NUMBERS

2273

Average migration (miles)	1200
UK population	110,000
Weight (g)	725
Wingspan (cm)	70
Average bill length (mm)	39.9

MUTE SWAN

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

1021

Average migration (miles)	30
UK population	74,000
Weight (g)	11,000
Wingspan (cm)	223
Average bill length (mm)	80.6

GADWELL

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

1043

Average migration (miles)	1110
UK population	25,000
Weight (g)	775
Wingspan (cm)	90
Average bill length (mm)	42.4

LITTLE EGRET

STATUS

GREEN

SPA NUMBERS

69

Average migration (miles)	600
UK population	4500
Weight (g)	450
Wingspan (cm)	92
Average bill length (mm)	84.4

BITTERN

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

1

Average migration (miles)	580
UK population	600
Weight (g)	1250
Wingspan (cm)	130
Average bill length (mm)	69.1

GOLDEN PLOVER

STATUS

GREEN

SPA NUMBERS

961

Average migration (miles)	1110
UK population	420,000
Weight (g)	220
Wingspan (cm)	72
Average bill length (mm)	23.1

MALLARD

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

3751

Average migration (miles)	1080
UK population	710,000
Weight (g)	1110
Wingspan (cm)	90
Average bill length (mm)	55.4

CORMORANT

STATUS

GREEN

SPA NUMBERS

364

Average migration (miles)	80
UK population	41,000
Weight (g)	2300
Wingspan (cm)	145
Average bill length (mm)	69.6

GOOSANDER

STATUS

GREEN

SPA NUMBERS

37

Average migration (miles)	1050
UK population	12,000
Weight (g)	1500
Wingspan (cm)	90
Average bill length (mm)	55.8

POCHARD

STATUS

RED

SPA NUMBERS

542

Average migration (miles)	1080
UK population	38,000
Weight (g)	930
Wingspan (cm)	77
Average bill length (mm)	47.1

COOT

STATUS

GREEN

SPA NUMBERS

1871

Average migration (miles)	430
UK population	190,000
Weight (g)	750
Wingspan (cm)	75
Average bill length (mm)	29

GREAT WHITE EGRET

SPA NUMBERS

7

Average migration (miles)	1250
UK population	72
Weight (g)	870
Wingspan (cm)	155
Average bill length (mm)	142.2

SMEW

STATUS

AMBER

SPA NUMBERS

22

Average migration (miles)	1500
UK population	180
Weight (g)	650
Wingspan (cm)	62
Average bill length (mm)	29.6

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