



Quarry Identification

It is the sportsman's responsibility to ensure positive identification of each target, and that it is legally shootable, and it is safe to shoot, before a shot is taken.

The BASC's popular quarry identification pocket guide is being revised and reprinted. Until the next issue is available, the illustrations of the main shootable species are given here to enable members to check their quarry identification. Please note that the new issue will include those species that are shootable in Northern Ireland.

GADWALL

Anas strepera
Size: 51cm (20in)

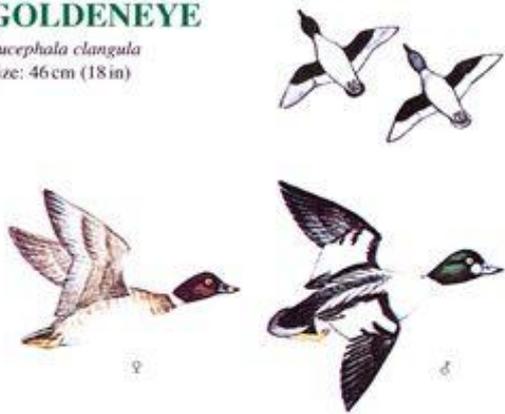


Medium-sized dabbling duck. Drake uniform grey-brown with conspicuous black rump; white speculum forms a bold white patch on trailing edge of wing, seen readily in flight; wing coverts chestnut and black. Duck dull, mottled brown, with white belly and white wing patch as drake. Juvenile much like female but well marked with streaks and spots on underside and darker upper-parts.

Size close to that of Mallard; female plumage resembles female Mallard, Pintail, Wigeon and Shoveler.

GOLDENEYE

Bucephala clangula
Size: 46 cm (18 in)



Medium sized diving duck. Drake has high-crowned, dark head with greenish-purple gloss and circular white patch on cheek; neck and under-parts white contrasting with black back and rump and grey tail; white inner wing readily seen in flight. Duck smaller than drake; has chocolate-brown head, pale blue-grey upper-parts with white under-parts, grey flanks and tail; wings dark with conspicuous white patch similar to drake. Juvenile resembles female.

Both sexes readily distinguished from other diving-duck species.

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos
Size: 58 cm (23 in)



Large dabbling duck. Adult male characterised by glossy, dark green head, white collar and purple-brown chest; rest of plumage mainly light grey, tail white with black central feathers. Female dull, mottled brown. Both sexes have purple speculum bordered by white wing-bars, particularly conspicuous in flight. Juvenile similar to duck.

Colouring of drake resembles drake Red-breasted Merganser (protected). Duck similar to female Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveler and Wigeon, but both male and female are bigger and more heavily-built.

PINTAIL

Anas acuta
Size: 56 cm (22 in)



Large slim dabbling duck with long neck and extended central pair of tail feathers. Drake has dark brown head, and back of neck, pure white breast, sides and front of neck, extending as white streak up side of head; under-parts white; back and flanks light grey; rump black; wings grey and brown with green speculum conspicuous in flight. Duck duller, grey-brown plumage and no discernible wing-pattern in flight, except a light trailing edge to inner wing. Juvenile resembles female, but generally darker and more uniform.

Although drake readily distinguished, duck resembles other female dabbling ducks, particularly Mallard, Gadwall, Shoveler and Wigeon.

POCHARD

Aythya ferina
Size: 46cm (18in)



Medium-sized diving duck with 'dumpy' appearance on water. Drake has dark chestnut head and neck contrasting with pale grey back and flanks, black breast and tail. Duck uniform dull brown, slightly paler around face. Both sexes characterised in flight by absence of white on wings; fore-wing dark grey. Juvenile resembles female.

Drake readily distinguished; duck resembles female Tufted Duck and Scaup (protected).

SHOVELER

Anas clypeata
Size: 51cm (20in)

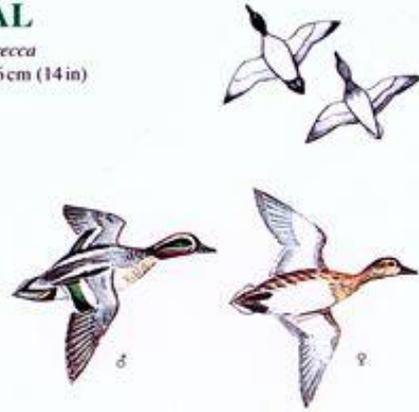


Medium-sized dabbling duck; both sexes characterised by spatulate bill, large head and short neck. Drake has striking pattern of dark green head, chestnut flanks and belly contrasting with pure white chest, pale blue forewing, green speculum edged with white. Duck mottled brown, with similar but duller blue forewing and green speculum. Juvenile a dull version of female.

Plumage of duck similar to that of female Gadwall, Pintail, Mallard and Wigeon.

TEAL

Anas crecca
Size: 36cm (14in)

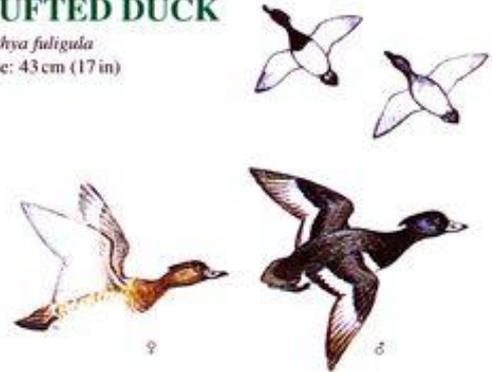


Small compact dabbling duck. Drake characterised by conspicuous grey plumage contrasting with dark chestnut head, creamy-buff patch on each side of black under-tail coverts and prominent white stripe along scapulars; breast cream spotted with black; underside white. Duck mottled brown with paler cheeks and whitish underside. Juvenile similar to female with spotted under-parts.

Only species of similar size is Garganey (protected) – a summer visitor.

TUFTED DUCK

Aythya fuligula
Size: 43cm (17in)



Small diving duck. Adult male with white flanks and belly; long, thin, drooping crest. Duck rich dark brown head and back; flanks and underside paler; crest shorter than in adult drake. In flight both sexes appear black with white belly and a distinctive broad white wing-bar. Juvenile resembles female.

Drake resembles male Scaup (protected); duck similar to female Pochard and Scaup.

WIGEON

Anas penelope

Size: 46 cm (18 in)



Medium-sized short necked dabbling duck. Drake is mainly grey with buff forehead and crown, chestnut head, chest pinkish-brown, white under-parts; white shoulder patch readily seen in flight. Female duller; brown plumage tinged rufous, white underside, green speculum fringed with white wing-bars. Short bill and dark pointed tail useful diagnostic characters.

Duck resembles other female dabbling ducks, especially Shoveler, Pintail, Gadwall and Mallard.

CANADA GOOSE

Branta canadensis

Size: 91–102 cm (36–40 in)



Very large grey-brown goose; black head and neck with distinctive white patch extending from the chin across cheeks to behind the eye. Body dark above; paler brown flanks and under-parts; tail-coverts white, tail black. Bill and legs black. Young birds similar to adults, and generally indistinguishable in field.

Not easily confused with other species of geese. The largest European goose: much larger than Brent and Barnacle (both protected), with characteristic black and white pattern on head and neck.

GREYLAG GOOSE

Anser anser

Size: 75–90 cm (30–35 in)



The largest grey goose. Head, neck and most of body uniform pale brownish-grey. Characterised by large size, heavy head and neck with stout bill, and very pale bluish-grey forewing – the latter especially obvious in flight. Bill bright orange; legs flesh pink. Breast often spotted with black. Young birds similar to adults but generally unspotted, with greyer legs.

Can be confused with Bean (protected), Pink-footed and White-fronted Geese (especially immature birds), but all are smaller and more slightly built by comparison; calls are also distinctive.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Anser brachyrhynchus

Size: 60–76 cm (24–30 in)



Medium-sized, grey goose characterised by dark head and neck, contrasting with pale brownish body. Bill is small and short, dark coloured with a pink bank; feet and legs are pink. Back and wings grey; paler forewing noticeable in flight. Young birds darker and more uniform above, mottled appearance below compared with more uniform colouring of adults.

Can be confused with Greylag, Bean (protected) and White-fronted Geese (especially immature birds); voices are characteristic.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Anser albifrons

Size:
66–76 cm
(26–30 in)



Two races of the White-fronted Goose regularly occur in the British Isles, the European White-front (*Anser a. albifrons*) and the Greenland White-front (*A. a. flavirostris*). The two sub-species are distinguishable in the field and have markedly different winter ranges. The following description relates to the European White-front, as current legislation does not provide for an open season for White-fronts in Scotland where the majority of the Greenland sub-species occur.

Medium-sized grey goose characterised by white band at base of upper bill and black bar-ring on belly. Amount of black on underside extremely variable. Young birds lack these characteristics, but are normally found in the company of adults. Generally dark greyish-brown plumage, fairly long pink bill, orange legs.

Can be confused with Greylag, Bean (protected) and Pink-footed Geese (especially immature birds), but generally distinguished by small size, uniformly dark plumage, and distinctive ‘musical’ call notes.

COOT

Fulica atra

Size: 38 cm (15 in)



Medium-sized bulky waterbird, characterised by overall very dark slate-grey body colour and black head in sharp contrast to white bill and frontal shield. On water distinguished by round back and apparently small head. Sexes similar; juvenile dark brown above, pale brown and whitish under-parts.

Only likely to be confused with Moorhen; frequently associates with diving ducks, but readily distinguished from these.

MOORHEN

Gallinula chloropus

Size: 33 cm (13 in)



Small-sized, dark waterbird. Striking white flank stripes and under-tail coverts with dark brownish to black upper-parts and slate-grey under-parts. Bill and frontal shield bright red; yellow bill tip. Sexes similar; juveniles brownish with creamy flank stripes, white under-tail coverts and greenish brown bill.

Only likely to be confused with Coot.

GOLDEN PLOVER

Pluvialis apricaria

Size: 28 cm (11 in)



Medium-sized wader with short, straight bill and rounded head. Distinguished at all seasons by rich gold and black spotted plumage on back and wings, white under-wing, and dark tail; no wing-bar. In winter underside and face whitish, mottled gold-brown. Juveniles more uniform than adults, paler above and darker below.

Confusion most likely with Grey Plover (protected), which is a winter visitor to coastal areas of Britain.

SNIPE

Gallinago gallinago
Size: 27 cm (10⁷/₂ in)



Small brown wader with characteristic long, straight bill. Upper-parts rufous brown and black with golden-buff stripes on head and back; under-parts buff with dark brown markings and pale barred flanks. Juvenile resembles adult.

Most easily confused with Jack Snipe (protected) which is much smaller and characteristically rises silently, very reluctantly (normally at walker's feet) and pitches down into cover after a short flight. Woodcock somewhat similar to Snipe, but larger with stouter bill and heavier build.

WOODCOCK

Scolopax rusticola
Size: 34 cm (13⁷/₂ in)



Medium-sized, dark, round-winged wader with long straight bill. Plumage richly marked with browns, buff and black on upper-parts; under-parts light brown with fine dark-brown barring. In flight looks stout with short tail and long bill angled downwards. Sexes similar; young resemble adults.

Distinguished from Snipe by larger size, heavy appearance, thick bill, and to some extent by habitat preferences.

BLACK GROUSE

Lyrurus tetrix (Tetrao tetrix)
Size: Male 53 cm (21 in)
Female 41–43 cm (16–17 in)



Medium-sized grouse. Male (Blackcock) plumage glossy blue-black with white wing-bar and curled, 'lyre-shaped' outer tail feathers. Female (Greyhen) warm brown above, greyer and paler under-parts, mottled and barred with black throughout; forked tail. Blackcock in eclipse plumage during autumn looks dingy, without characteristic lyre-shaped tail. Juveniles like small dull female.

Blackcock unmistakable, but Greyhen may be confused with female Red Grouse or Capercaillie. Confusing hybrids between Black Grouse and Capercaillie, Red Grouse and Pheasant occur.

GREY PARTRIDGE

Perdix perdix
Size: Male 31 cm (12 in)
Female 29 cm (11¹/₂ in)



Small, rotund gamebird with short wings and short, rufous tail. Sexes essentially similar, although male slightly larger; both have characteristic orange-chestnut face, grey neck and under-parts and chestnut flanks; male has conspicuous dark chestnut horse-shoe patch on lower breast, but this feature usually only poorly developed in females. Juvenile has orange or chestnut markings replaced by brown streaking.

Easily confused with slightly larger Red-legged Partridge; in particular, juveniles of the two species are very similar and difficult to separate. Quail (protected) is similar, but much smaller.

PHEASANT

Phasianus colchicus

Size: Male 76–89 cm (30–35 in)
Female 53–64 cm (21–25 in)



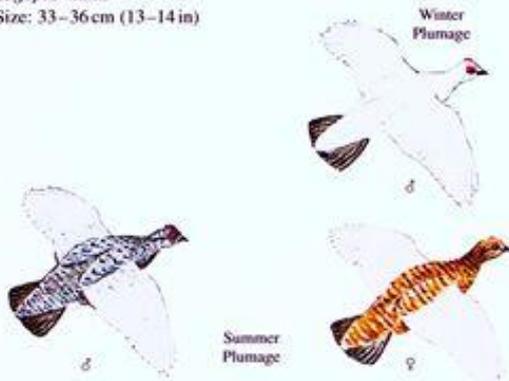
Large gamebird; both sexes characterised by long, pointed tail. Male colouring very variable, but typically iridescent copper body plumage with glossy dark green head, scarlet wattle and white neck ring. Hen about two-thirds size of cock, duller, mottled plumage tones varying from light buff to dark brown. Juvenile similar to adult female.

Large size and long tail are unmistakable characteristics; a wide range of colour variants occur; confusion can occur with feral birds of introduced species, particularly Golden and Lady Amherst's Pheasants.

PTARMIGAN

Lagopus mutus

Size: 33–36 cm (13–14 in)



Small grouse, both cock and hen characterised by pure white wings and under-parts at all seasons. In winter both sexes pure white except for black tail. Cock in autumn has greyish-brown mottled head, neck, flanks, upper-breast and body and black tail; hen darker. Juvenile like autumn female, but with pale brown wings and tail same colour as back.

White wings and underbody, together with habitat preferences, easily distinguish Ptarmigan from other British grouse species.

RED GROUSE

Lagopus lagopus scoticus

Size: Male 36–39 cm (14–15½ in)
Female 33–36 cm (13–14 in)



Medium-sized grouse characterised by rotund appearance, short wings; body plumage uniform dark rufous brown with darker wings and black rounded tail. Sexes closely similar, but female more barred and a duller rufous colour. Adults appear greyer in winter, with white under-wing coverts and occasionally show white on flanks and belly. Juvenile generally like female.

May be confused with Greyhen; Ptarmigan distinguished by smaller size and white wings and underparts.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Alectoris rufa

Size: Male 34 cm (13½ in)
Female 32 cm (13 in)

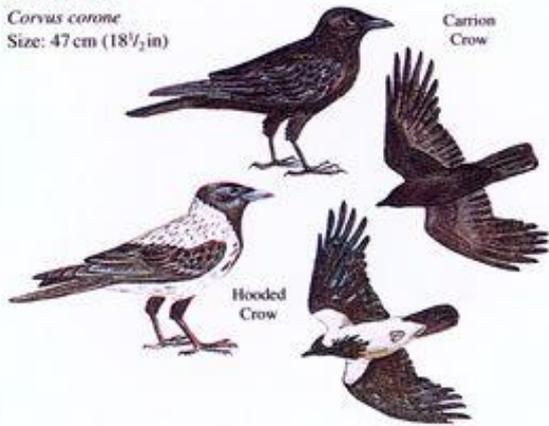


Small, rotund gamebird with short wings and tail. Sexes have similar plumage. Adult has distinctive long white eye-stripe, white throat and cheeks bordered black; chestnut, white and black barred flanks; red bill and legs; rest of plumage olive brown, grey and buff. Juvenile lacks distinctive head pattern and barred flanks.

Easily confused with Grey Partridge, especially in flight. Quail (protected) is very much smaller, with duller plumage.

CROW

Corvus corone
Size: 47 cm (18½ in)

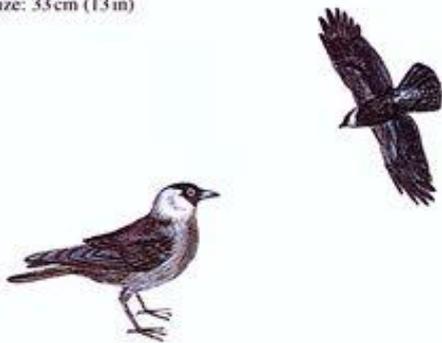


Two races of this large corvid occur in the British Isles. The Carrion Crow (*Corvus c. corone*) has uniform sleek black plumage with a greenish or blue-purple gloss. The Hooded Crow (*C. c. cornix*) is black except for grey back and under-parts. Both have a heavy, dark brown bill, and square tail.

Hooded crow unmistakable, although flight silhouette like Carrion Crow. Carrion Crow may be confused with Rook; other black corvids are the much larger Raven (protected), and smaller Chough (protected), both of which have very distinct calls.

JACKDAW

Corvus monedula
Size: 33 cm (13 in)



Small, dark corvid, characterised by grey nape and ear-coverts; under-parts dark grey, remaining plumage black. Distinctive pale grey eye, and short bill.

Most likely confusion is with Chough (protected), but this species has distinctive flight and call notes. Carrion and Hooder Crows, Raven (protected) and Rook all much larger and heavier than Jackdaw.

JAY

Garrulus glandarius
Size: 34 cm (13½ in)



Medium-sized corvid, characterised by white rump, black tail and white wing-patch conspicuous in flight. Body pinkish-brown; bright blue and black barred wing coverts; black and white erectile crown feathers; fairly long tail and short rounded wings.

Easily identified by voice and plumage characteristics, and affinity to woodland habitats.

MAGPIE

Pica pica
Size: 46 cm (18 in)

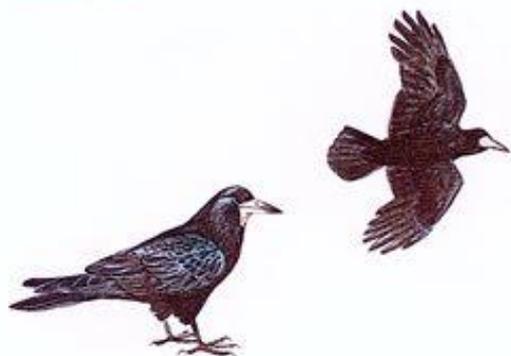


Medium-sized corvid, characterised by distinctive black and white plumage and long wedge-shaped tail which comprises half total length. Belly, flanks and scapulars white; rest of plumage black with bluish or greenish gloss. Sexes alike; juvenile a duller version of adult.

Distinctive plumage and voice make confusion with other species unlikely.

ROOK

Corvus frugilegus
Size: 46 cm (18 in)



Large, black corvid with characteristic bare, white face-patch. Loose plumage around flanks gives 'shaggy trousers' appearance. Feathers have iridescent blue-purple or greenish gloss; slender, pointed bill is grey-black. Juvenile birds lack bare face patch, but characterised by loose flank feathers.

May be confused with Carrion Crow. Some resemblance to Raven (protected) and Chough (protected), but these have distinctive call notes.

WOODPIGEON

Columba palumbus
Size: 41 cm (16 in)

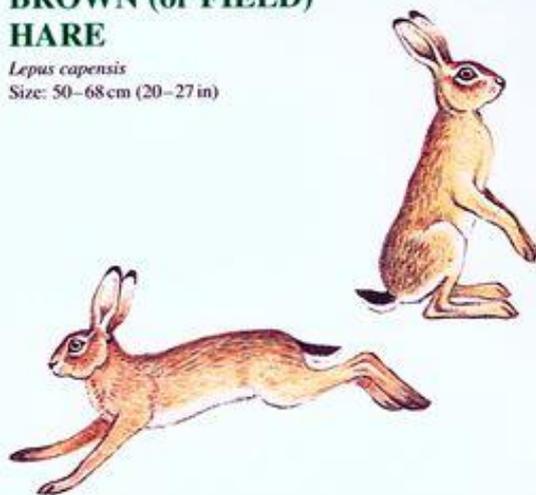


Characterised by broad white band across wing seen readily in flight, and white patches on side of neck. Sexes similar. Body plumage basically blue-grey, head and neck bluer than rest, flanks and underside paler; purple-green gloss to side of neck. Young duller and lack white on wings and neck.

Confusion most likely with Stock Dove, Rock Dove and some domestic pigeons (all protected), but all are smaller and lack white wing and neck patches of Woodpigeon.

BROWN (or FIELD) HARE

Lepus capensis
Size: 50–68 cm (20–27 in)



Medium-sized mammal characterised by very long ears and long hind-legs which are fully outstretched when running. Ears have black tips; body colour yellowish- to reddish-brown in summer, becoming greyer in winter; upper tail is black.

Resembles Mountain Hare, also similar to, but much larger than, Rabbit.

May not be offered for sale between March 1st to July 31st (inclusive).

GREY SQUIRREL

Sciurus carolinensis
Size: 45–55 cm (17½–21½ in)



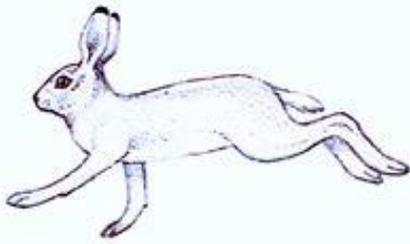
Medium-sized rodent. Characterised by long bushy tail (nearly half total length); grey fur with some reddish and yellow tinges on back and flanks; and absence of prominent ear tufts. Under-parts white; gains silver-grey winter coat in spring.

Resembled Red Squirrel (protected), although the latter is smaller and more lightly built, has noticeable ear-tufts and is found mainly in coniferous woodland.

MOUNTAIN (or BLUE) HARE

Lepus timidus

Size: 45–55 cm (17½–21½ in)



Medium-sized mammal characterised by long black-tipped ears and long hind-legs; tail lacks any black colouring. Body colour grey-brown to reddish-brown in summer; in winter largely white with black ear-tips, although not all individuals change colour; during moult mixtures of white and grey-brown (or bluish brown) occur.

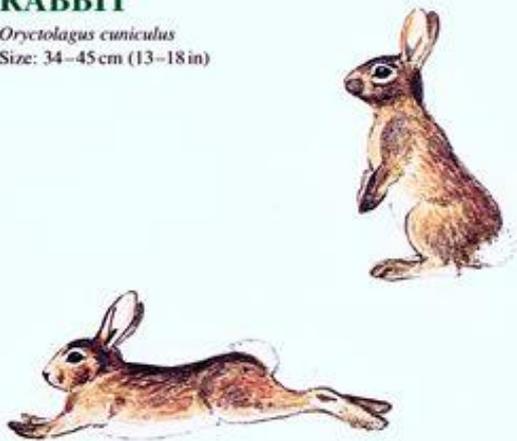
Mountain Hare (except in winter coat) closely resembles Brown Hare, and is similar to the much smaller Rabbit.

May not be offered for sale between March 1st to July 31st (inclusive).

RABBIT

Oryctolagus cuniculus

Size: 34–45 cm (13–18 in)



Medium-sized mammal characterised by long ears and long hind legs; short, woolly tail which is white on underside contrasting with black or brown-grey above. Body colour normally light brown, but wide range of colour varieties occur, notably black, fawn, white and silver-grey.

Both Brown and Mountain Hares are larger, with longer ears and larger hind-legs.

ROE DEER

Capreolus capreolus



Height:	Up to 75cm at shoulder Browses to 1.1m, frays to 50cm
Breeding:	One or two kids each year
Origin:	Native
Diet:	Herbs, bramble, woody browse, grass, crops
Habits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solitary or in small groups in woodland • Sometimes feeds in fields • Often damages trees, sometimes arable crops

FALLOW DEER

Dama dama



Height:	Up to 1m at shoulder Browses to 1.8m, frays to 80cm
Breeding:	One fawn each year
Origin:	Introduced by the Normans to parks and estates from France
Diet:	Grass, crops, herbs, woody browse, acorns and mast
Habits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups or herds; often shelter in woods and feed on fields • Damage to farm crops, woodland shrubs and ground flora can be locally severe

MUNTJAC DEER

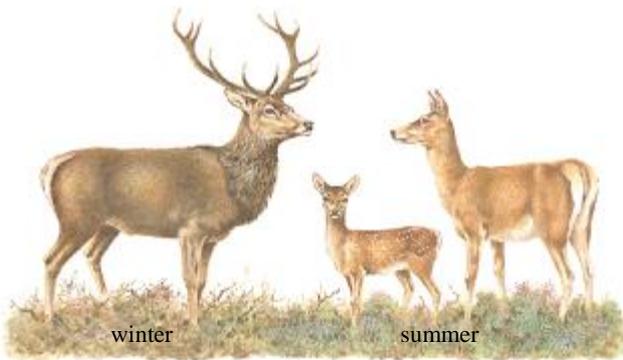
Muntiacus reevesi



- Height:** Up to 50cm at shoulder
Browses to 1.1m, frays to 40cm
- Breeding:** All year round; 1-2 fawns each year
- Origin:** Introduced to Bedfordshire in early 1900s from China
- Diet:** Bramble, herbs, nuts and fruits, coppice shoots, flowers
- Habits:**
- Solitary, in dense woodland cover
 - Often feeds in gardens
 - Damages trees, farm crops, woodland shrubs and ground flora

RED DEER

Cervus elaphus



- Height:** Up to 1.2m at shoulder
Browses to 1.8m, frays to 1.8m
- Breeding:** One calf each year. Hybridises with sika deer
- Origin:** Native
- Diet:** Grass, crops, heather, trees and shrubs
- Habits:**
- Groups (herds on moorland)
 - Ranges widely and can cause serious damage to trees, woodlands and farm crops

SIKA DEER

Cervus nippon



- Height:** Up to 85cm at shoulder
Browses to 1.8m, frays to 1.6m
- Breeding:** One calf each year. Hybridises with red deer
- Origin:** Introduced to deer parks from Japan during 1860s
- Diet:** Grass, heather, trees, shrubs and herbs
- Habits:**
- Groups in dense woodland with mixed fields or glades
 - Can cause serious damage to woodlands and sometimes crops

CHINESE WATER DEER

Hydropotes inermis



- Height:** Up to 60cm at shoulder
Browses to 90cm
- Breeding:** Two or three fawns each year
- Origin:** Introduced to Woburn in early 1900s from China
- Diet:** Grass, sedges, bramble, herbs, crops
- Habits:**
- Solitary in wet woods and reed beds next to fields
 - Damage to trees, shrubs and crops is slight
 - Males have tusks, not antlers

Note: Deer text and illustrations taken from the Forestry Commission booklet "Managing Deer in the Countryside"
Deer illustrations by Neil McReddie.