

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*)



Considerable variation from white to black
Weight 250 to 350g



Sheltered place e.g. side alley, bridge, derelict building



Crude, variety of materials e.g. wire, cable ties

Generally March to July
All year if conditions favourable
4-7 broods per year

Breeding

When

Where

Nest

Eggs

Rate

2, white, ♂ & ♀ incubate

17-19 days incubation
Squabs initially fed on protein rich secretion
Then regurgitated pre-digested food
Independent 30-37 days
Can breed at 6 months
More eggs can be laid before previous young leave nest



Descended from Rock Dove



Adapted well to urban environment



India

Now serious pest world over

Evolution

Flocking Behaviour

Flock size 50-400 birds depending on available food
Each flock distinct territory
Some interchange between neighbouring flocks
Not necessarily same group to roost
Home range 1.7 sq miles
Can commute long distances to feed

Dominant birds get
best mate
best food
best breeding site

Biology

Feeding

50g food/day
12 Kg droppings/yr

Efficient at finding food (initial caution at new site)

Spillage
Feeding by public
Farms spring sowing
Farms autumn stubble



Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Spring insects - usually on ground in grass fields
 Summer insects, soft fruit
 Winter invertebrates, stubble roots, stock foods, scraps

Gregarious - roosts may be tens of thousands
 In trees, on buildings, bridges pylons etc

Fly up to 50 Km to feed

4-5 pale blue eggs
 Incubation 12-15 days
 Fledge 3 wks
 Maybe 2 broods
 (early April, mid May)
 Typical lifespan 5 yrs.



Glossy black with metallic green or purple tints. In winter the body feathers become tipped in white giving speckled appearance. Juveniles brown until autumn

Breeding
 Feeding
 Appearance

Gulls

Species	Size	Wings	Beak	Legs
Great Black Backed <i>Larus marinus</i>	70cm	Black, white tips	Yellow with red spot	Pink
Lesser Black Backed <i>Larus fuscus</i>	60cm	Dark grey, black tips	Yellow with red spot	Yellow
Herring <i>Larus argentatus</i>	60cm	Light grey, black tips	Yellow with red spot	Pink
Black Headed <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	35cm	Top grey, bottom blk	Red with black tip	Red
Common <i>Larus canus</i>	40cm	Grey	Green-yellow	Green-yellow
Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	40cm	Pale grey, black tips	Yellow	Brown-black

Herring Gull



Food: fish, marine invertebrates, carrion, refuse. Prefer local food but will fly up to 25 miles to landfills, farmland, sewage outlets. Great BB also feed on small birds. Common and Black Headed also eat insects and earthworms.



Appearance
 Feeding

Breeding

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)



Nests neat cups, usually grass, can be indoors

April-Aug UK, 4-6eggs
 Incubation 12-14 days
 Fledging 15 days
 2-3 broods per yr
 Lifespan 1-2 yrs

Eat wide variety
 Scavenge
 Ripening cereals
 Can live entirely indoors

Appearance
 Breeding
 Feeding

Kittiwakes nesting



Nest in colonies using same site year after year. Herring and Lesser BB will nest on roofs; Kittiwakes on precipitous ledges. Breeding May to Aug N. Europe.
 Great BB 2-3 eggs, mainly June; 27 day incubation
 Lesser BB 3 eggs, mainly May to June; 25 day incubation
 Herring 3 eggs, mainly May to June; 26 day incubation
 Common 3 eggs, mainly June; 25 day incubation
 Black-Headed 2-3 eggs, mainly June; 22 day incubation
 Kittiwake 1-3 eggs, mainly June; 27 day incubation

It takes 2 to 4 years to acquire adult plumage. Long lived e.g. Herring breed at 5 yrs, live up to 25yrs