

Observations of the Fish Species in Swanland Pond - 2015

Species.

There does not seem to be any significant change from last year in terms of the species present.

There are a number of carp, including mirror, common, ghost and grass carp. The numbers have been reduced due to some mortalities in the previous year, I would estimate that between 5 and 10 have been lost. There are a mixture of sizes from immature specimens to fish that are many years old and are probably in excess of 10-15lb in weight.

Rudd and roach - there seem to be large numbers present, with signs of successful spawning again this year. A mixture of sizes and age groups. Rudd are the most common out of the two, with both the ornamental golden rudd and the native common rudd present. The latter outnumber the former significantly.

Green tench - I made a positive identification of one large tench this year. More are likely to be present.

Goldfish - numbers appear to have reduced again this year, however there are a number of these, of different varieties.

Golden orfe - there are a few larger specimens present.

Perch - there were large numbers of these earlier in the year, however during the summer I noticed a large number dead, after the water level had been reduced for wall repairs. The reason for mortalities was unclear. Due to the green algal bloom later in the summer affecting water clarity, it has been difficult to assess if these are still present in large numbers.

Fish Health and Water Quality

There have been a number of dead fish found over the last year. Three or four larger carp were found dead during the autumn/winter of 2014/15 and other fish have been reported dead throughout 2015. These have mostly been isolated instances, although I did note upwards of a dozen small perch (< 6 inches long) dead during the summer, on one day when the water clarity was sufficient to view the bed of the pond.

There was a substantial algal bloom during late summer, reducing visibility and making it difficult to accurately observe the fish.

I would strongly recommend reviewing the measures in place to combat another algal bloom next year. While it may not completely address the algae situation, I suggest introducing an aeration device. This would ensure that the fish have enough oxygen to survive in the mid-summer period when the algae are likely to be most problematic. I think due to the large amount of fish present in the pond, in addition to other pressures such as the increasing duck population, there would be danger of a mass mortality if the aeration issue is not addressed.

I also recommend monitoring the water quality at regular intervals to check for excessive ammonia, nitrate and nitrite levels.

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