

Observations of the Fish Species in Swanland Pond - 2018

Fish Species.

The fish species observed in 2018 remain similar to those from previous years.

Most common species appear to be Rudd, (golden and natural versions), Carp (Common, Mirror, and Ghost Carp most frequent), Asian Grass Carp (albino and natural versions), Golden Orfe and goldfish. Tench and roach have been noted in small numbers. No perch or three-spined sticklebacks have been observed although this could be due to the poor water clarity.

Fish Health.

A small number of larger Roach have been found dead, which may indicate conditions are becoming unsuitable for this species.

The absence of Perch and Stickleback sightings may indicate conditions have become unsuitable for these species over time.

Predation.

Predation by herons appears to have increased, resulting in a possible reduction in goldfish numbers (these appear much reduced from previous years). Herons took full advantage of the low water levels and more sluggish fish during the extensive summer drought.

Breeding.

Rudd fry of various year groups have been observed, with frequent signs of Rudd spawning activity in the spring and summer indicating a healthy breeding population.

The success of other species spawning activity has not been ascertained.

Pond Conditions.

Over the summer, conditions were noted to have deteriorated with significant algal blooms and low water levels.

The introduction of an aerating device appears to have averted fish mortality, without this it is likely conditions would have deteriorated further resulting in large scale fish deaths.

Further implementation of aeration is recommended in the following year.

Vegetation appears healthy, although the pond ecosystem may benefit further from a wider variety of vegetation including submerged aquatic oxygenating plants (with suitable protection from wildfowl).

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