

## **Observations of the Fish Species in Swanland Pond - 2017**

### **Fish Species.**

There appears to be little change in the species present in the pond since 2016.

This year, the following have been observed:

- Carp, including mirror, common, ghost, koi, and grass carp (albino and standard varieties)
- Golden orfe
- Goldfish
- Green tench
- Rudd (both golden and silver Rudd)
- Roach

Although perch have not been visible, one large specimen was found dead earlier in the year which could indicate this species is still present.

### **Fish Health.**

Small numbers of dead fish have been noted on occasion through the year. Fatalities appear much reduced in number from the previous year, and have been limited to occasional specimens of roach, goldfish and one perch. No signs of any serious identifiable disease were obvious, most of the fatalities were larger mature fish which may have experienced bacterial infection.

The existing fish seem to be in good health, and large numbers of fry have been visible in the warmer months indicating successful spawning enabled by more favourable water quality. It is not possible to identify the fry species but it is likely these are mostly Rudd and possibly Roach.

### **Predation.**

A heron has been observed visiting the pond early on some mornings, and a tern has been spotted taking small fish. This occasional predation should help to keep the population in check.

### **Pond Conditions.**

It has been fortunate that we have not experienced long periods of extremely warm weather- the warmer spells have encouraged algal blooms but these have been reduced in severity by the cooler, damp weather we have seen this summer.

As mentioned, the signs of successful fish spawning indicate favourable water quality conditions.

There is still no means of auxiliary oxygenation, which would be of great benefit for the fish in the warmer months.

There still appears to be a leak. Levels have fluctuated significantly during the year.

## **Recommendations.**

I would recommend the following:

- Installation of an oxygenation device. The large numbers of fish in Swanland pond combined with algal blooms and fluctuating water levels could result in large scale fatalities when oxygen levels drop during long periods of warm summer weather. I would recommend looking at the model used successfully this year in Welton pond, which has been cleaned out. Fish have been re-introduced and have been doing well since the installation of the new oxygen system.
- as a secondary option, installation of a fountain to provide oxygen as and when needed during warm weather
- a 'stock take' of the aquatic and marginal plants to determine which species have done well since planting a few years ago and which have failed. There is still a lack of submerged oxygenating plants, and the water lilies originally planted seem to have disappeared some years ago. If possible, I recommend reintroducing these (with protection from the ducks).

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