

The Great Lake

The Great Lake was fashioned by the 5th Earl of Carlisle in the 1790s to enhance the view towards Coneythorpe. Although man-made, it is fed by natural springs and is home to a wide variety of birds and other wildlife. See if you can spot these species out on the water or on the lake banks.

Kingfisher

A stunningly beautiful bird with bright blue and orange plumage. They fly low and fast across the water as they hunt for fish. Look out for them as they flash past or perch along the banks.

Canada Goose

A species introduced from North America, the Canada goose is a common sight and forms large flocks that feed on grass, seeds, roots and leaves. Frequently seen alongside the Canada geese is the native Greylag goose. They can be identified by their pale feathers, orange bill and pink legs.

Mute Swan

Beautiful white birds with graceful arching necks and orange bills with black at their base. A large bevy of these elegant birds have made their home on the Great Lake and their silver-grey cygnets can be seen alongside their parents in spring.

Tufted Duck

A charismatic diving duck, male tufted ducks have shiny black feathers with white flanks and a small tuft on their head. Females are brown and both sexes have a bright yellow eye that stands out against their dark plumage.

Great Crested Grebe

A handsome looking bird with a fantastic orange ruff and black plume on its head. During their mating dance, these birds will rise out of the water and shake their head to attract a partner.

Mandarin Duck

First introduced from the Far East, the mandarin duck is one of the most colourful birds you'll see on the Great Lake. An unmistakable sight, the male has beautiful orange, green, red and white plumage.

Moorhen

A common little water bird with all black feathers. It can be told apart from the coot by its yellow green legs and red beak. Their call is a short, sharp squeak.



Oystercatcher



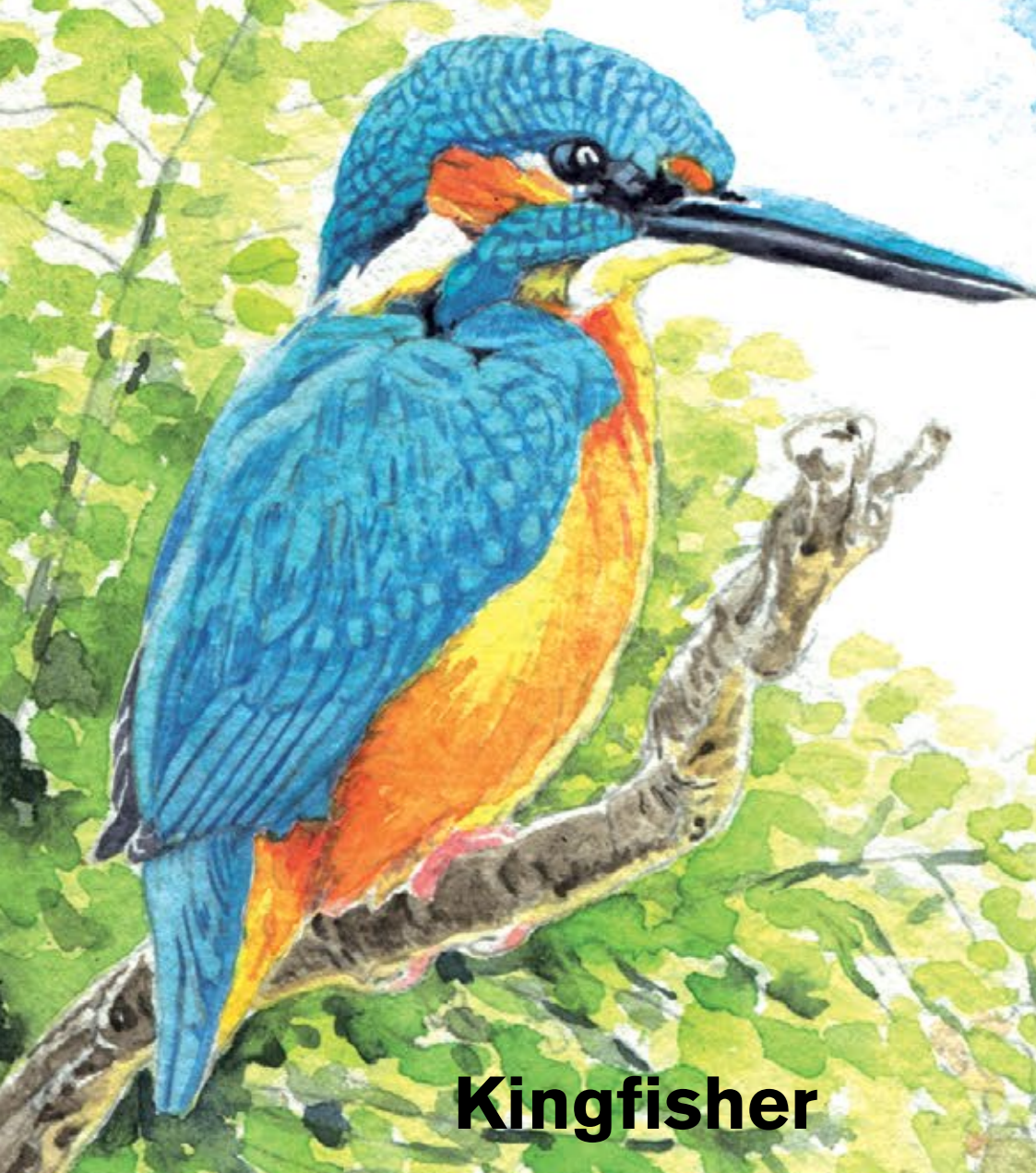
CASTLE HOWARD

Grey Heron

These large birds are often seen in the trees surrounding the Great Lake or slowly flapping into the distance. They are grey, white and black in colour, and easy to spot with their long legs, neck and beak.

Mallard

The dark green head, purple brown chest and yellow beak of the male mallard makes this one of the UK's most recognisable ducks. Females are brown with an orange bill and their little yellow and brown ducklings can be seen trailing behind them in spring



Kingfisher



Canada Goose



Mute Swan



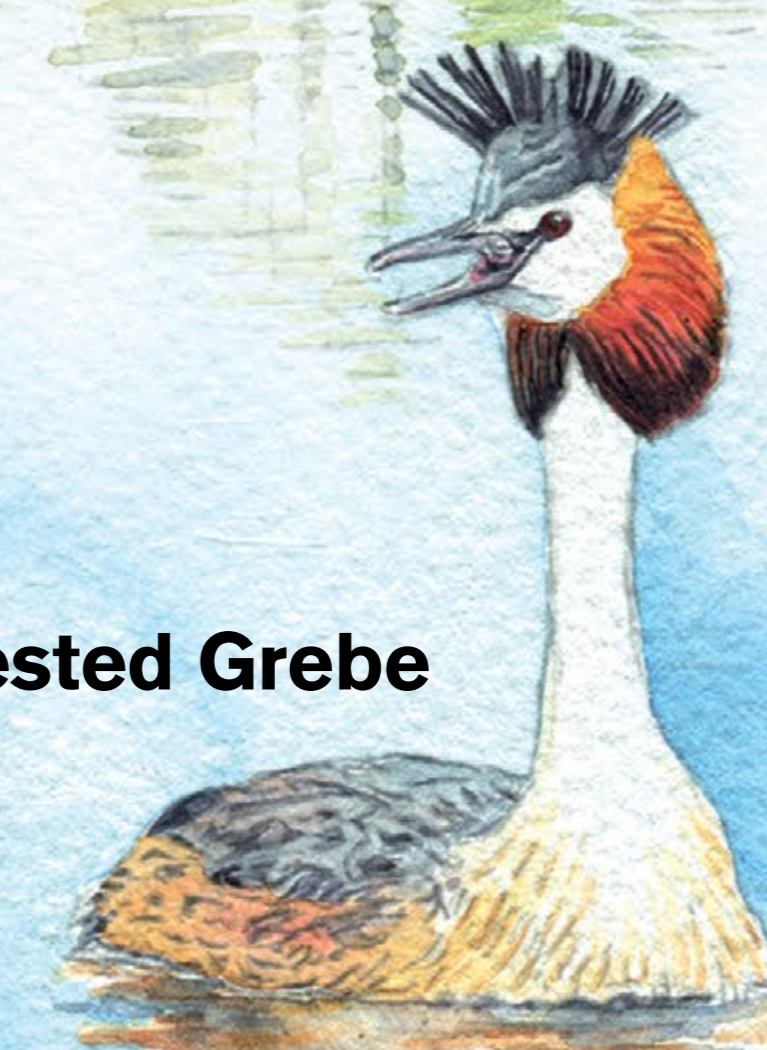
Tufted Ducks



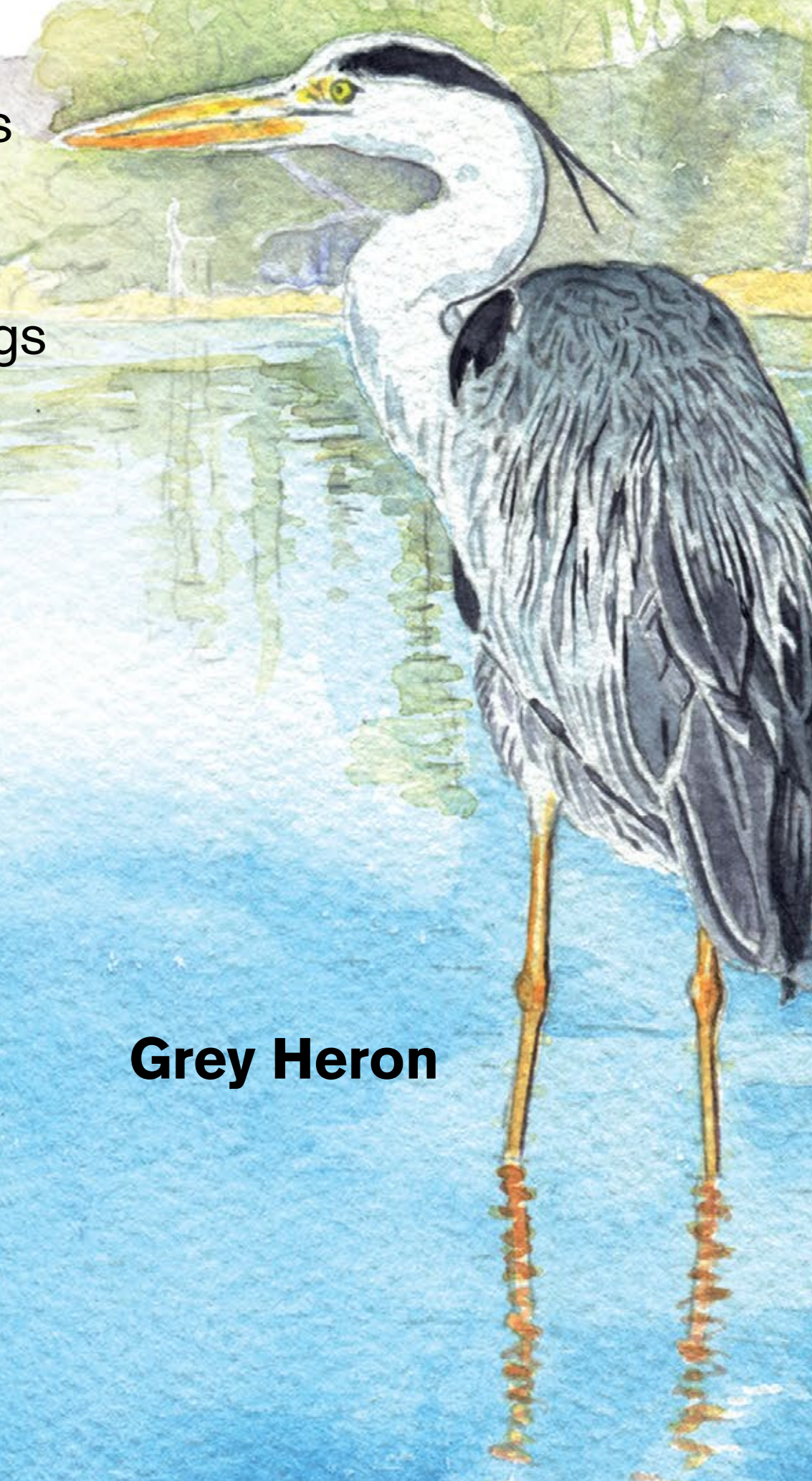
Mandarin Duck



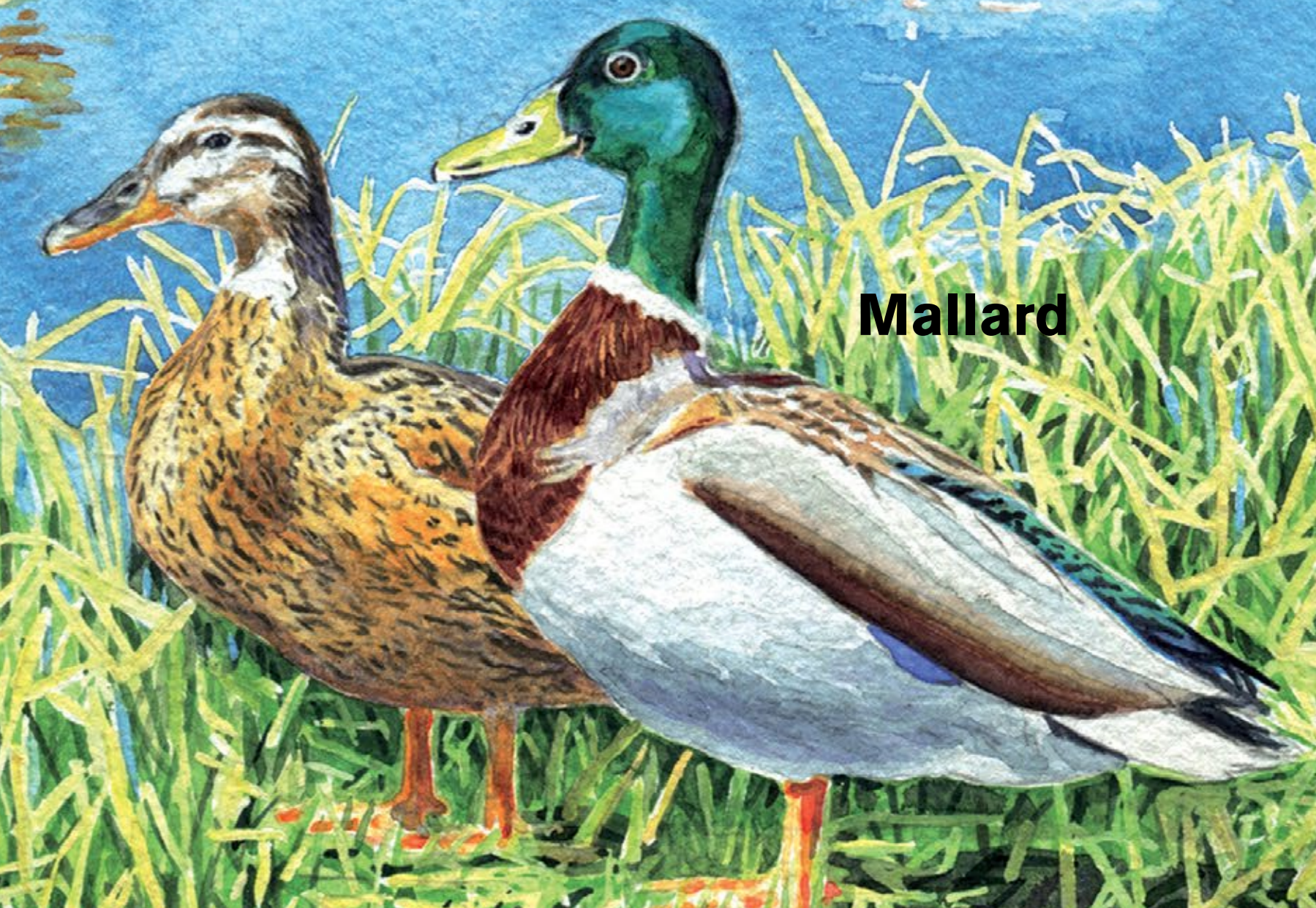
Moorhen



Great Crested Grebe



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Mallard

For the chance to see more stunning landscapes and diverse wildlife, take a walk along the extensive footpaths that criss-cross the Castle Howard Estate, set in the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or explore the North York Moors National Park's spectacular moorlands, woodlands and coast.