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BIRDS OF THE PARK

ORNITHOLOGICAL SURVEYS IN WITTMANN PARK

HISTORY OF THE PARK

The park is located north of the castle, on the left bank of the River Lajta. It is named after Antal Wittmann, a knight of Dengláz, an agronomist and scientist of the Hungarian Reform Era, who founded the Magyaróvár Higher Private Institute of Economics in 1818 on behalf of Prince Albert Kázmér, and was its first director. The city's oldest planted park, created during Wittmann's work to regulate the River Lajta and drain the marshes and reeds. The park has been open to the public since the beginning. It also served as a training site for the students of the private school. The number of plant species in 1886 was about 700. In the last third of the 19th century, an entertainment pavilion was built in the middle of the park. Unfortunately, the Archduke's former "entertainment club" (pavilion), where in the 1950s and 1960s there was a dance and music bar in the grove, has been demolished.



The former 30-hectare area of the park has now been reduced to around 14 hectares with the construction of sports fields and other buildings. A protected natural area of local importance since 1990.

Wittmann Park along with the Castle Garden is the site of a habitat improvement project for bird conservation within the AgriNatur project, where ornithological surveys were carried out between 2019-2021. A total of 41 bird species were recorded in Wittmann Park, including several protected species.

Of these, 35 species definitely bred in the area, with the remaining species being foragers or were just passing through. The project also included the installation of artificial nests along the educational path in the Castle Garden and Wittmann Park. The results of the surveys are available on the project website.



Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
Its name is derived from the black "cap" on the male's head, although the female's cap is brown. The most common typical warbler. It adapts well to poorer habitats and proximity to humans.

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
A common and widespread leaf warbler. Its greenish plumage makes it difficult to spot among the leaves. It feeds on insects and spiders, and in autumn it also eats berries. It builds its nest on the ground and forages in the tree canopy. It is named after its distinctive call.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)
Our most common finch species. We can mostly see it in flocks. Its rural Hungarian name is stiglic, derived from the German name for the bird (Stieglitz). Its diet consists of seeds and berries, but it supplements the diet of its young with beetles and caterpillars. Once considered a "cage bird" due to its colourful appearance, it is now protected.

Black Woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*)
The largest domestic woodpecker. It forages on the trunk of the tree as well as on the ground, mainly for larger ants, grubs, larvae, and beetles. Scops Owl and European Roller may move into its abandoned nest cavities.



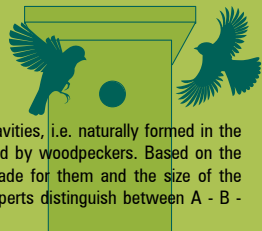
Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
The male has shiny black plumage, with orange-yellow beak and eye rings, whereas the female is brown. Primarily an inhabitant of deciduous forest and forest edges, now it commonly nests in urban gardens and parks.

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)
A colourful bird with a beautiful voice. Males wear a bluish-grey "cap". It was originally a forest bird, but now it settles in parks, orchards, and woodlands. A migratory bird, Hungarian specimens spend the winter in the Mediterranean region.

Eurasian Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)
It prefers the presence of mature trees in its habitat. It moves like a woodpecker on the trunks and branches of trees, often hanging upside down, searching for food hiding in the cracks of the bark. It feeds on insect larvae, caterpillars, adult beetles, and spiders. A resident bird, therefore, it also eats berries and seeds from autumn.

Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)
Its plumage is completely black except for the back of its head, which is grey. Its iris has a characteristic light grey colour. The jackdaw is a social and noisy bird. It likes to be close to humans. Its diet consists of plants, insects, and other invertebrates. The birds, as a pair, stay together for life. It nests once a year. It is a resident bird, does not migrate.

DID YOU KNOW?



Some of our birds breed in cavities, i.e. naturally formed in the trunks of older trees or carved by woodpeckers. Based on the area of the artificial nests made for them and the size of the openings they fly through, experts distinguish between A - B - C - D-type cavities.

EcoTip

MAKE AN ARTIFICIAL NEST!

Check out the different types of cavities! Most of the birds around the urban areas tend to prefer type "B" cavities, therefore we recommend you to make and install a B-type bird box. Making a bird box is easy and it can provide a place for exciting observations.



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about the project

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