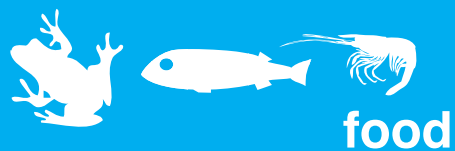
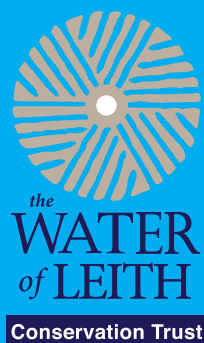


FACT FILE: bird



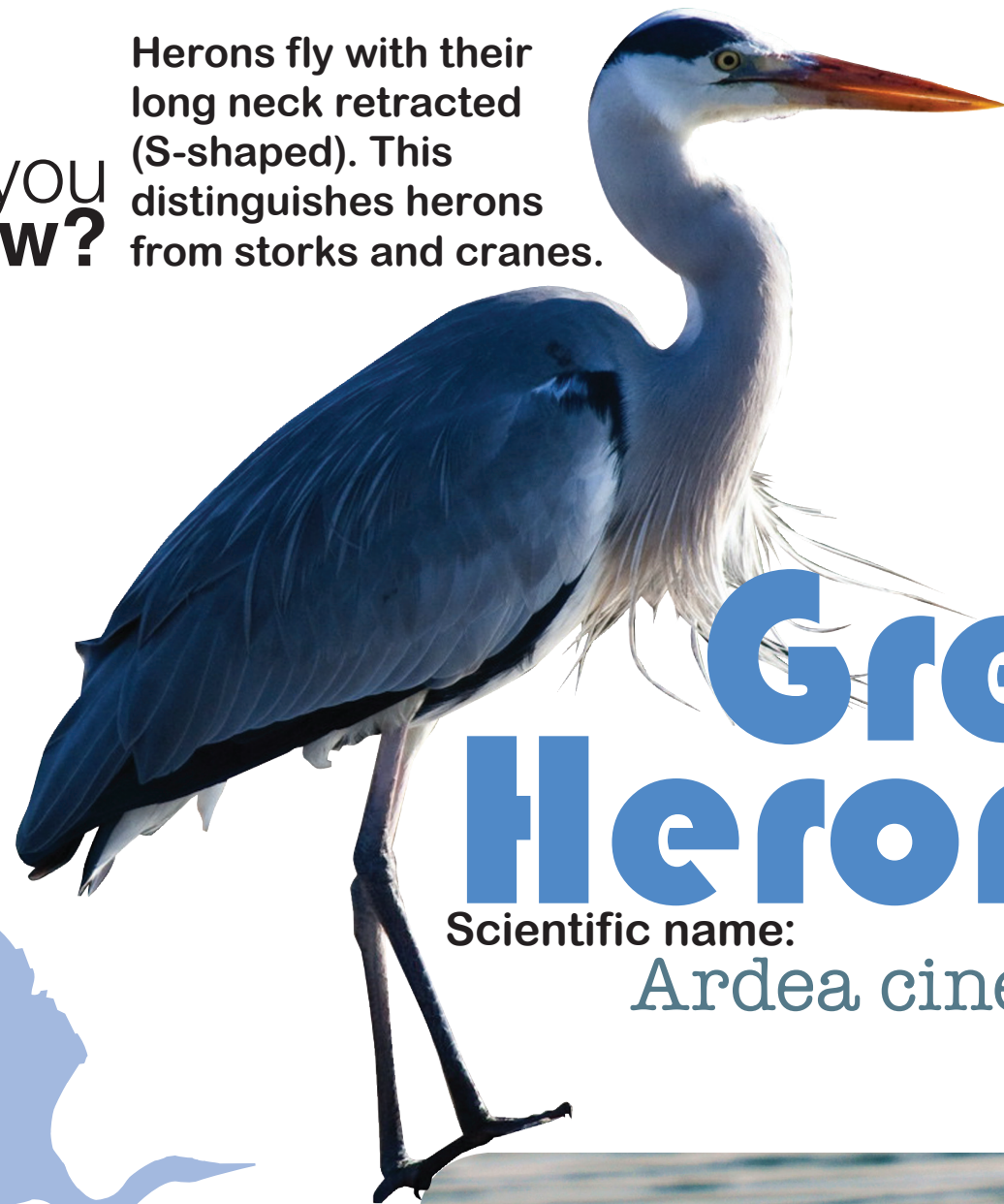
life span UP TO 20 YEARS

active  DAYS



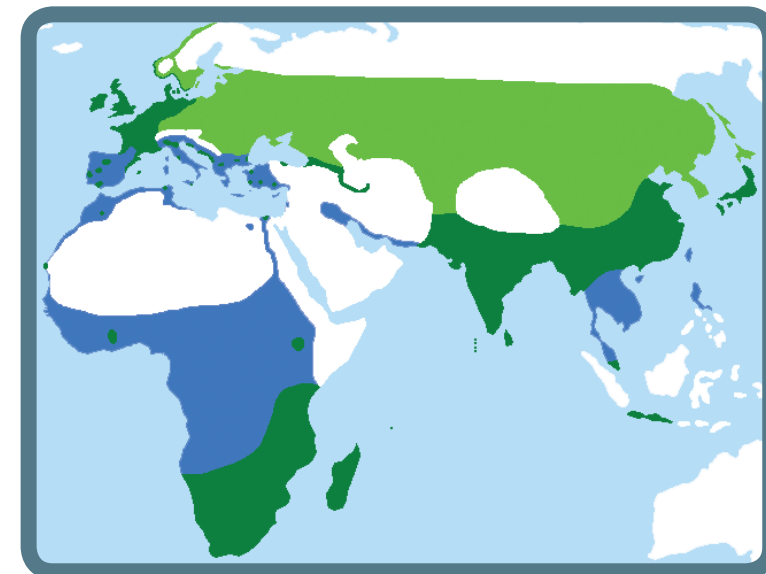
did you
know?

Hérons fly with their long neck retracted (S-shaped). This distinguishes herons from storks and cranes.



Grey Heron

Scientific name:
Ardea cinerea



Summer All year Winter

did you know?

The Grey Heron has been documented using bait to lure prey to within striking distance.



Home
Tweet
Home

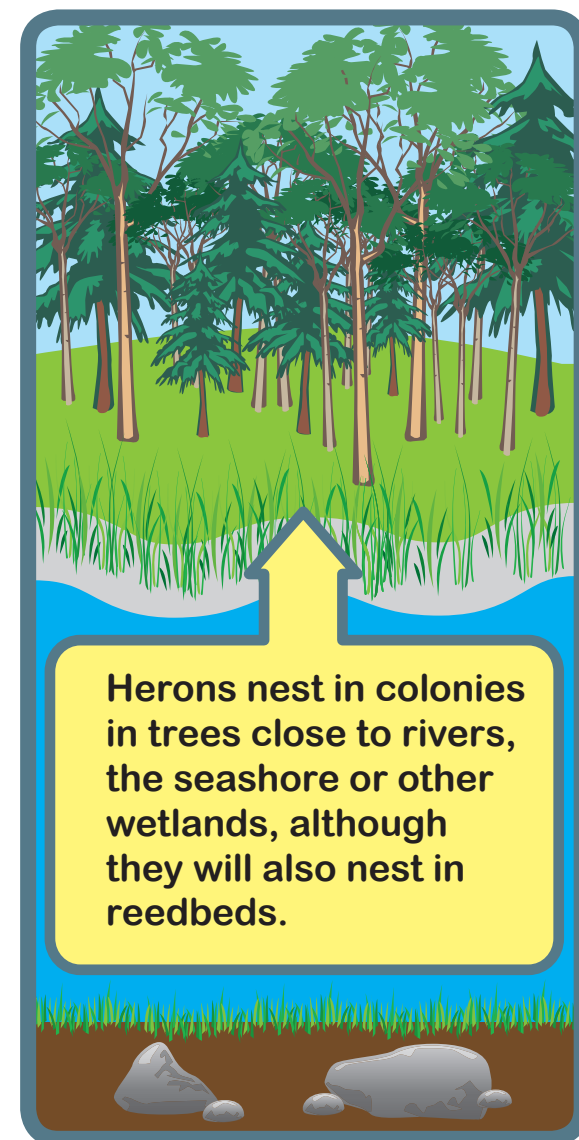


All the herons you see on the Water of Leith and anywhere else around Edinburgh return to the heron colony at Duddingston Loch at night.



did you
know?

Hérons will visit zoos during feeding times for birds such as penguins and pelicans.

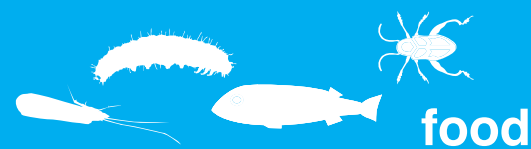


Hérons nest in colonies in trees close to rivers, the seashore or other wetlands, although they will also nest in reedbeds.

FACT FILE: bird



size
13 CM

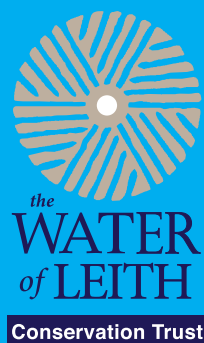


eggs laid



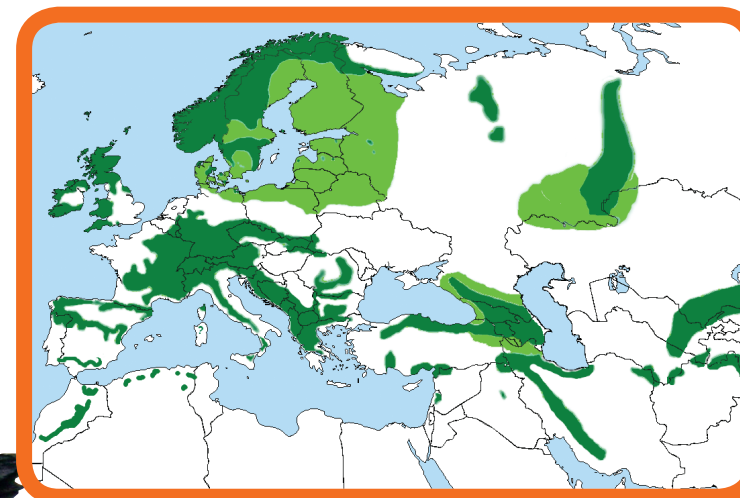
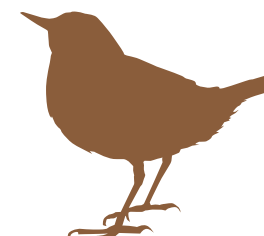
only **ONE QUARTER** of dippers
survive their **FIRST YEAR**

active  **DAYS**

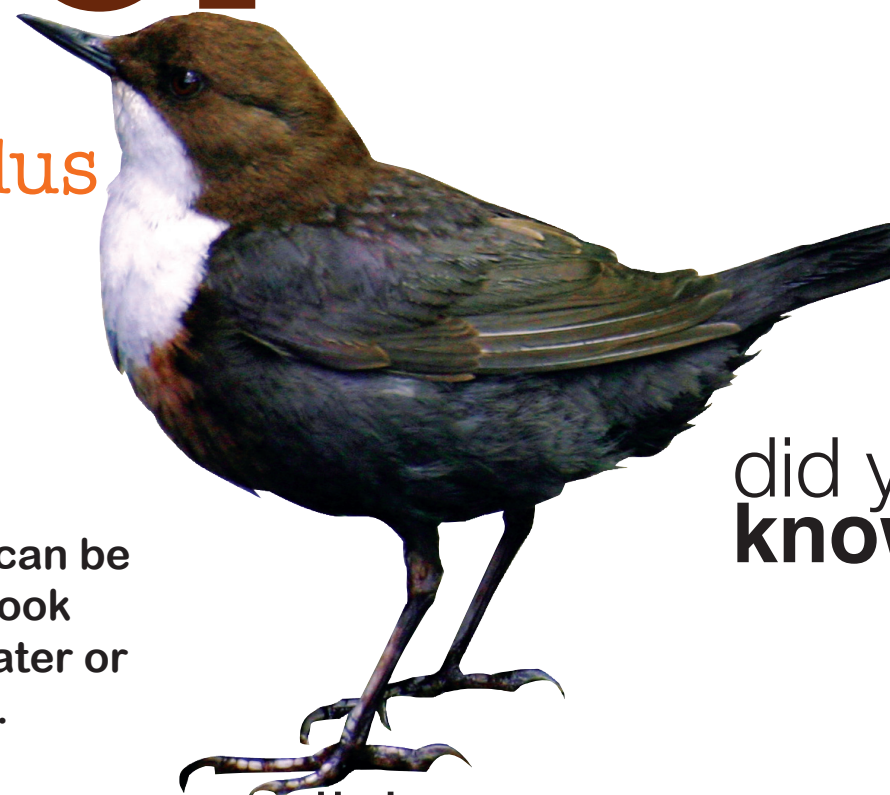


Dipper

Scientific name:
Cinclus cinclus



 Summer  All year



did you know?

This charming little water bird can be seen on the river year-round. Look out for it flying low along the water or bobbing up and down on rocks.

did you know?

Both sexes work together to build their nest in crevices in the river bank and under bridges.

did you know?

Dippers don't have webbed feet like many water birds.



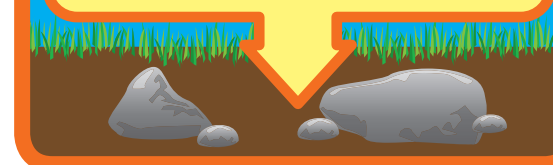
Home Tweet Home



The dipper's nest is a large ball built using moss dead grass and leaves. This ball is just a shelter. Hidden beneath is the entrance to the leaf-lined nest.



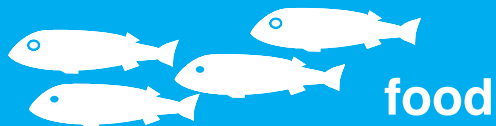
Dippers dive under the water to hunt for food. Once under the water they spread out their wings and walk upstream along the bottom of the river bed looking for food.



FACT FILE: bird



size 16 CM



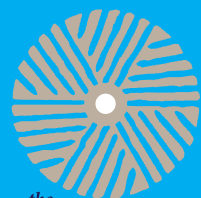
food

eggs laid



oldest kingfisher 31 YEARS

active  DAYS

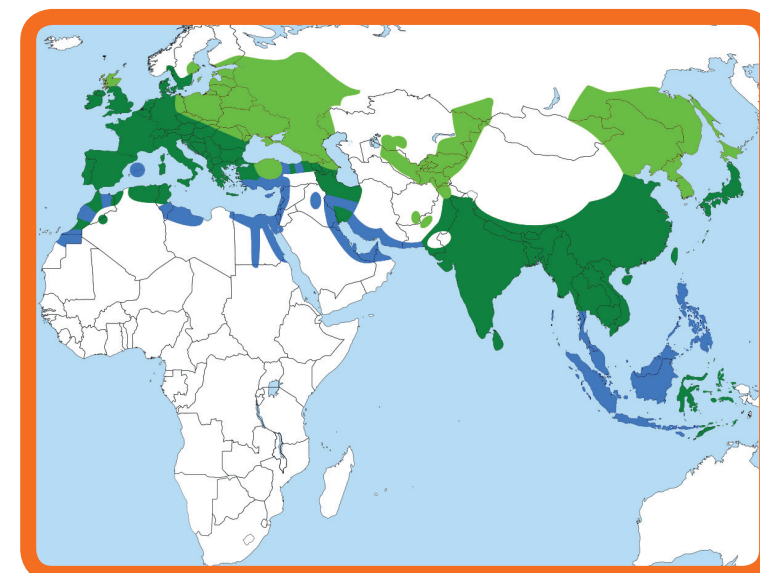
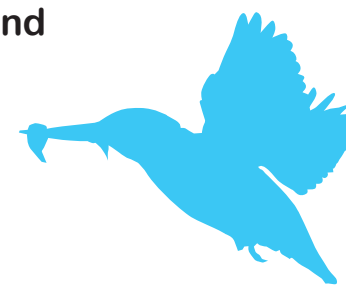


the
WATER
of LEITH

Conservation Trust

did you
know?

If another kingfisher enters its territory fights may occur where a bird will grab the other's beak and try to hold it under water.



Summer All year Winter

Kingfisher

Scientific name: *Alcedo atthis*

did you
know?

Since kingfishers are high up in the food chain, they are vulnerable to build-up of chemicals, and river pollution.



did you
know?

The Kingfisher eats around 60% of its body weight each day!



did you
know?

Burrow nesting birds spend much time bathing and preening.

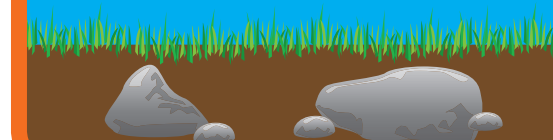
Home
Tweet
Home



The nest is in a burrow excavated by birds of both sexes in a low vertical riverbank. The burrow is normally two to three feet long and ends in an enlarged chamber.

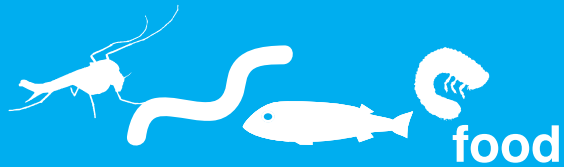


Kingfishers inhabit clear, slow-flowing streams and rivers and nest in a burrow along the banks.

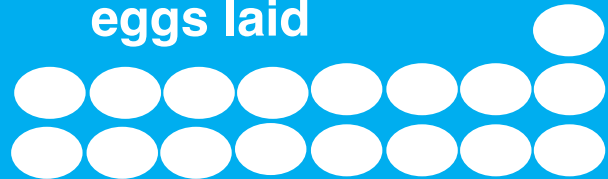


FACT FILE: bird

size
58-72 CM

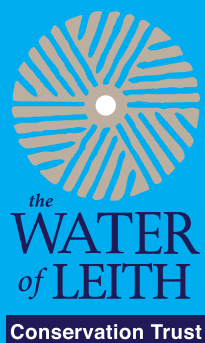


eggs laid



goosanders are mature
at 2 YEARS

active  DAYS



did you
know?

Goosander have serrated edges on their bills that help them grip their prey. They are often known as "sawbills".

Scientific name:

Mergus merganser

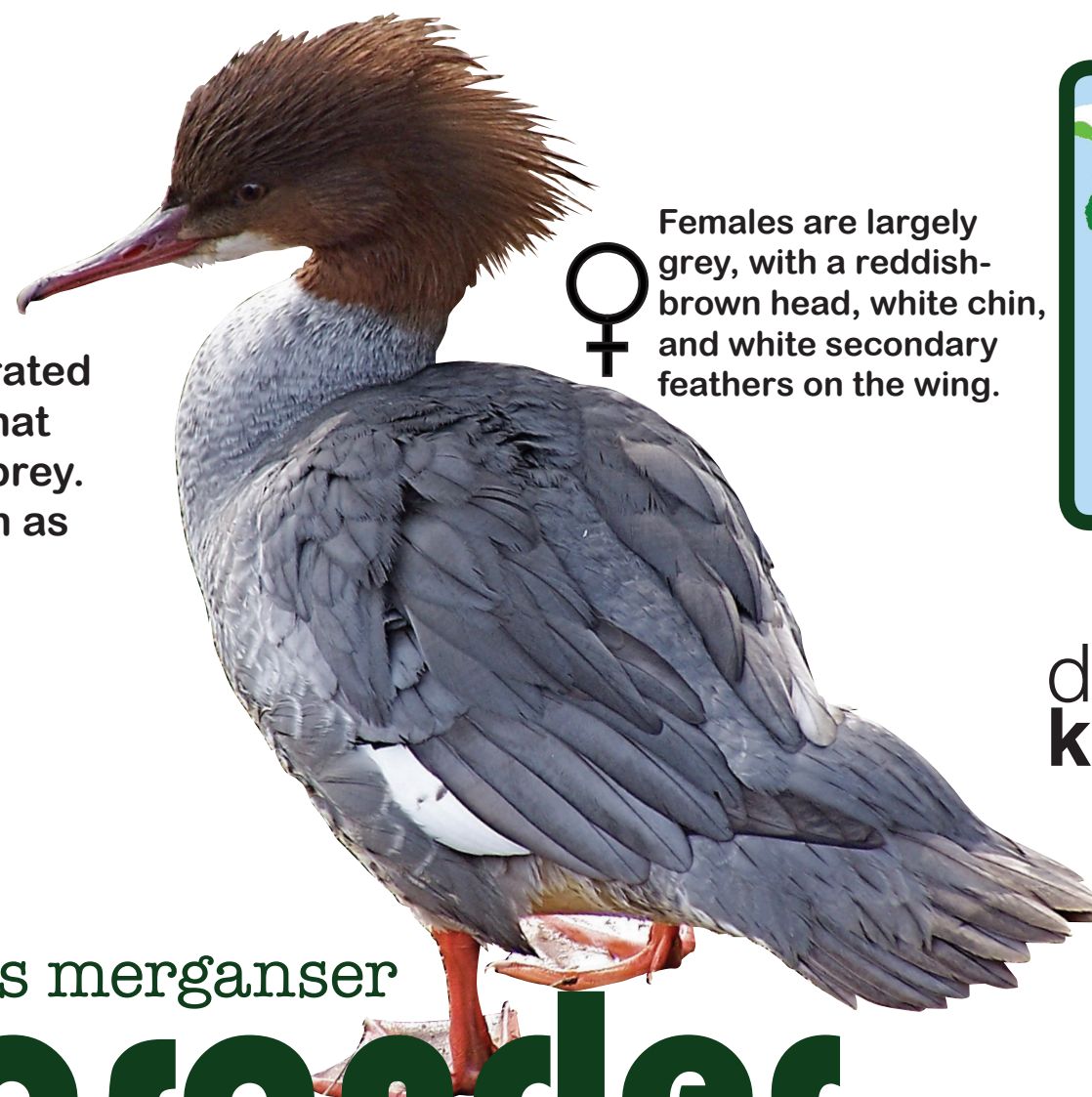
Goosander

did you know? Goosander often fish in a group forming a semicircle driving the fish into a shallow, where they are captured easily.

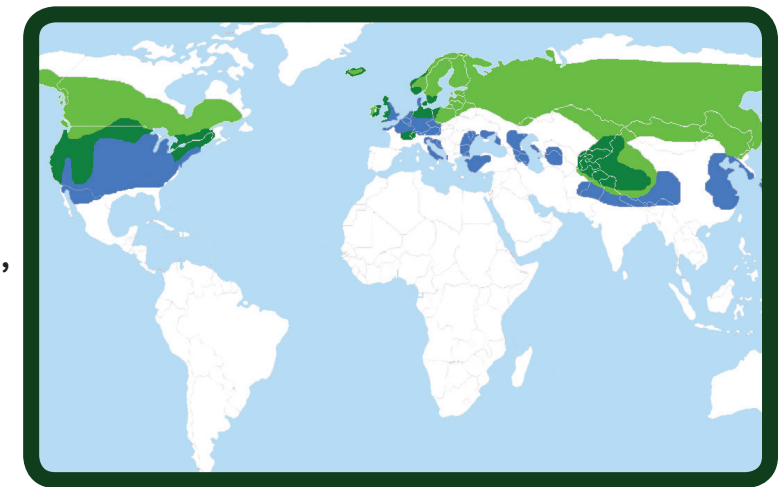


Home
Tweet
Home

Goosanders normally nest in a tree cavity, thus they require a mature forest for their breeding habitat.



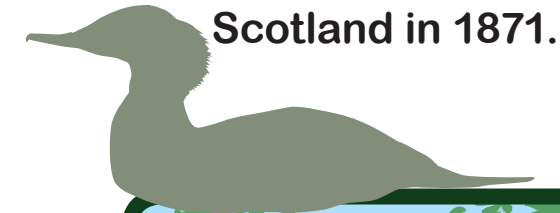
Females are largely grey, with a reddish-brown head, white chin, and white secondary feathers on the wing.



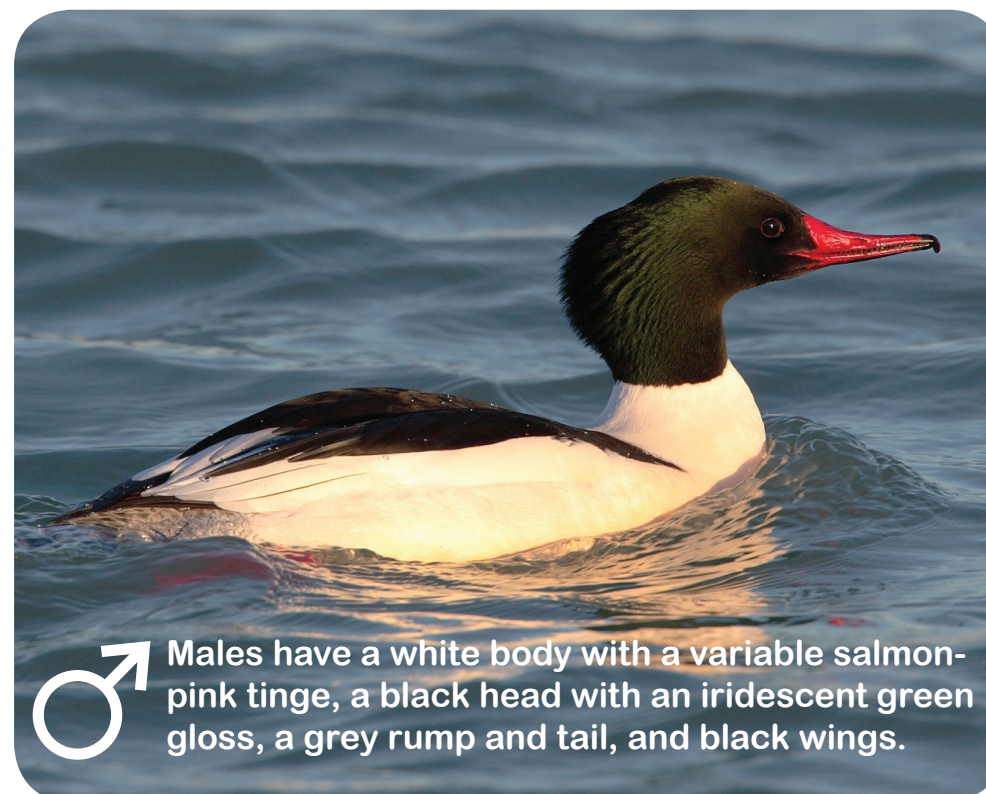
 Summer  All year  Winter

did you
know?

Goosander spread from Scandinavia in the breeding range since about 1850, colonising Scotland in 1871.



Goosander float downstream for a couple of miles, and fish their way back, diving incessantly the whole way. When swimming upstream they swim deep in water like Cormorants. In smaller streams they twist round and round in the rapids, or fish vigorously in deep pools near the foot of a waterfall or rapid.



Males have a white body with a variable salmon-pink tinge, a black head with an iridescent green gloss, a grey rump and tail, and black wings.