





Many species of birds nest along the river or in the marshy meadows, including snipe, little grebe, mute swan, mallard and moorhen. Sedge warblers, reed warblers and reed buntings nest in the areas of tall fen and reed, and grasshopper warbler is also a regular summer visitor. In winter small numbers of wildfowl are present, with water rails, large numbers of snipe and, occasionally, jack snipe. Passage species seen in spring and autumn, but which do not breed, include wheatear, yellow wagtail and sand martin with occasional records of hobby and common sandpiper. Grey heron and kingfisher use the river in all seasons.

Small areas of woodland, scattered trees, hedgerows and hawthorn scrub occur over the site, with several stands of alder and some willow carr. Purple willow *Salix purpurea*, which is uncommon in Berkshire, occurs in one area. These habitats are used by a variety of birds which depend on them for nest or roost sites, a rich supply of insect food during the summer, or for seeds and berries in autumn and winter. Breeding species include lesser spotted woodpecker, garden warbler, blackcap, whitethroat, spotted flycatcher and willow tit. Flocks of redwings, fieldfares and siskins are common in winter.