

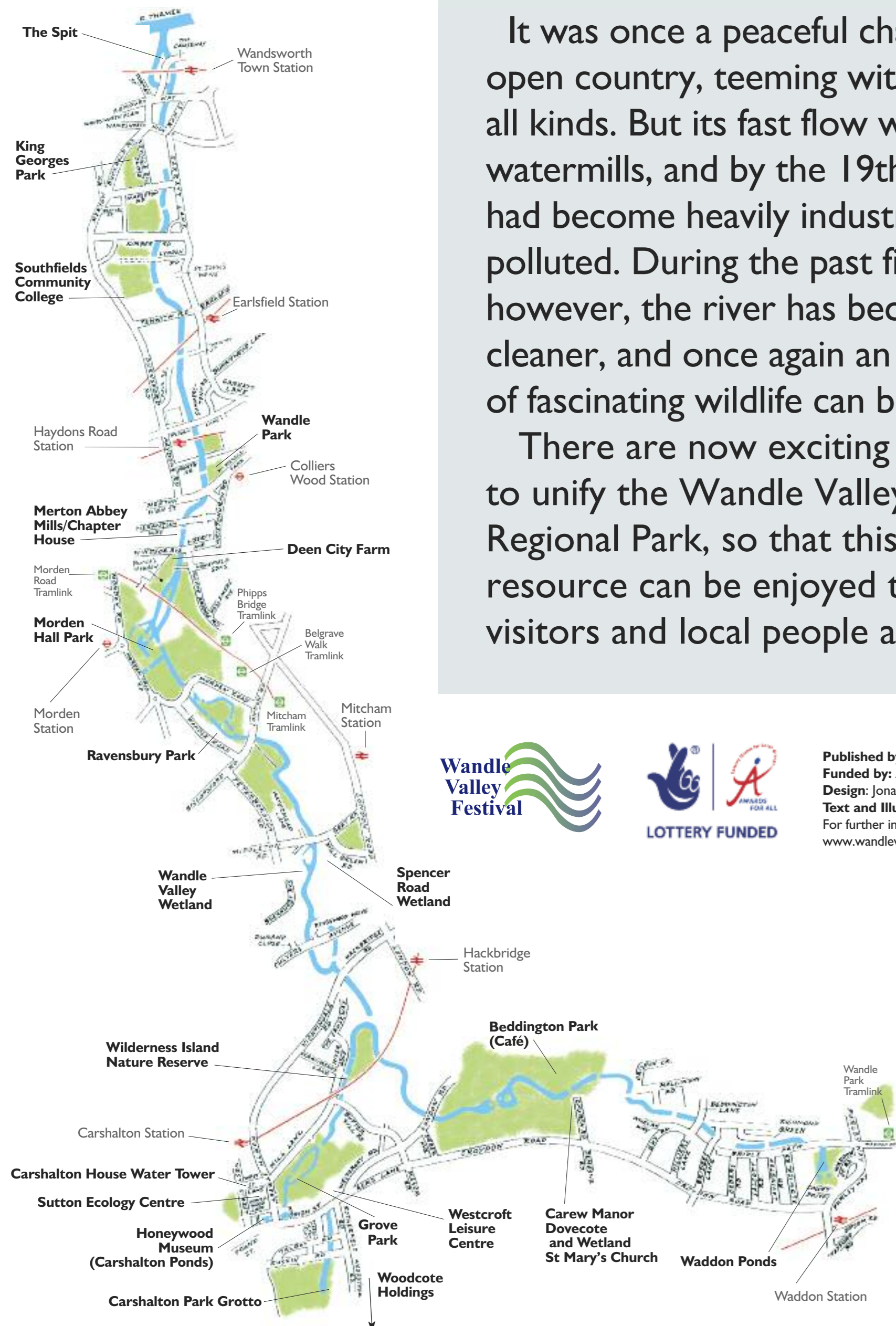
River Wandle Birds

'A ribbon of countryside in London'

The Wandle rises in Waddon in the Borough of Croydon and Carshalton in the Borough of Sutton. It flows for 12 miles through Merton down to the Thames at Wandsworth.

It was once a peaceful chalk stream in open country, teeming with wildlife of all kinds. But its fast flow was ideal for watermills, and by the 19th century it had become heavily industrialised and polluted. During the past fifty years, however, the river has become much cleaner, and once again an abundance of fascinating wildlife can be seen.

There are now exciting plans afoot to unify the Wandle Valley as a Regional Park, so that this priceless resource can be enjoyed to the full by visitors and local people alike.



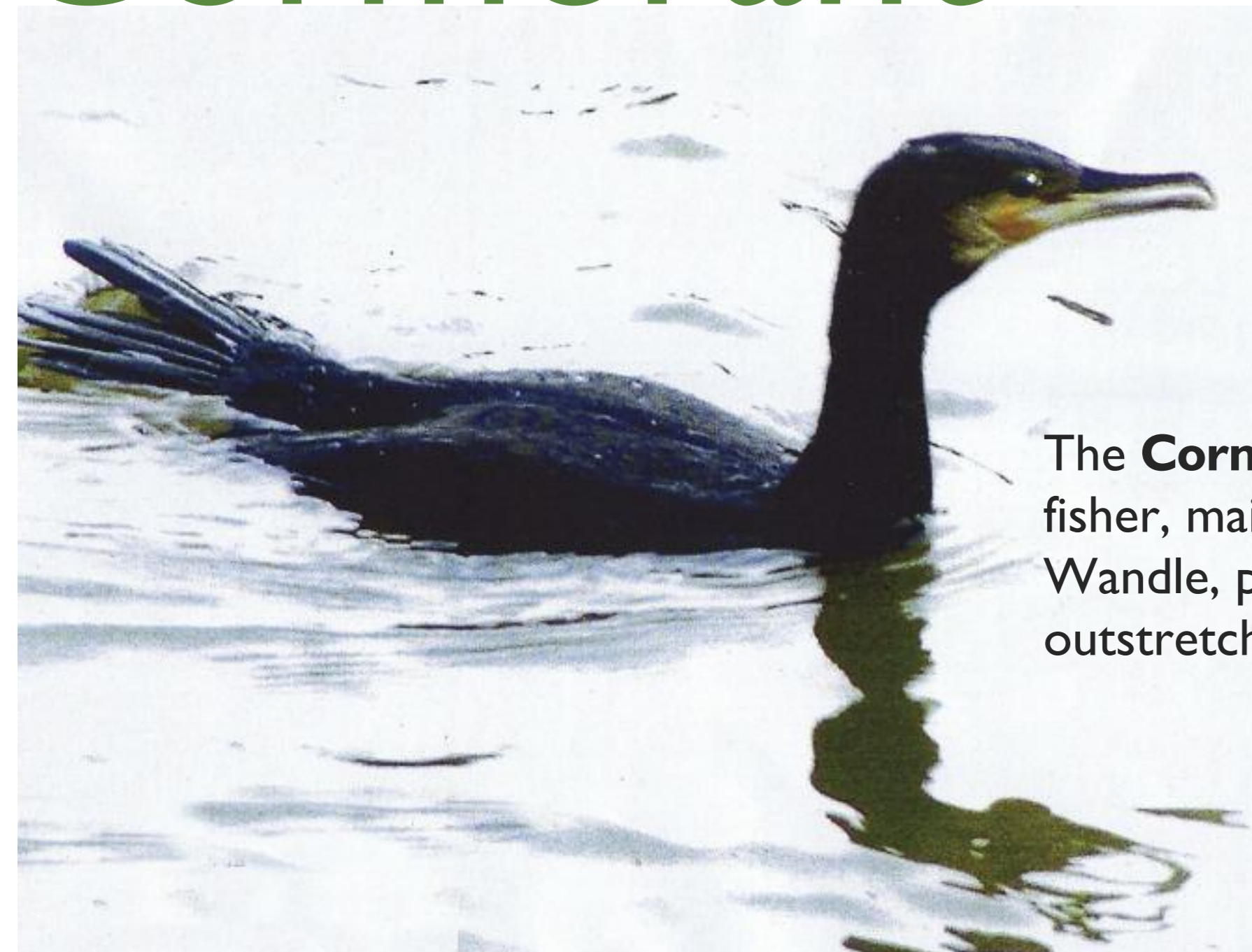
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Kingfisher

The stunning **Kingfisher** breeds along the Wandle, nesting in bankside holes. Very shy, the bird is usually seen as a vivid electric-blue streak, speeding along the river uttering a single high-pitched piping call. Kingfishers perch on overhanging branches, ready to dive onto unsuspecting sticklebacks, their main diet. The best chance of watching the birds is to sit quietly on the river bank, wait for one to appear and hopefully perch close by. Kingfishers are well worth waiting for!

Cormorant



The **Cormorant** is an expert fisher, mainly at the mouth of the Wandle, perched with wings outstretched or frequently diving.

Grey Heron

The **Grey Heron** is one of our most familiar birds. Large and of unmistakable appearance, it can be seen all along the Wandle. Sometimes they form small heronries, building large bulky nests high in trees. Usually we see the birds knee-deep in water, upright and motionless, ready to strike and impale fish, frog, vole, dragonfly or fledgling water bird.



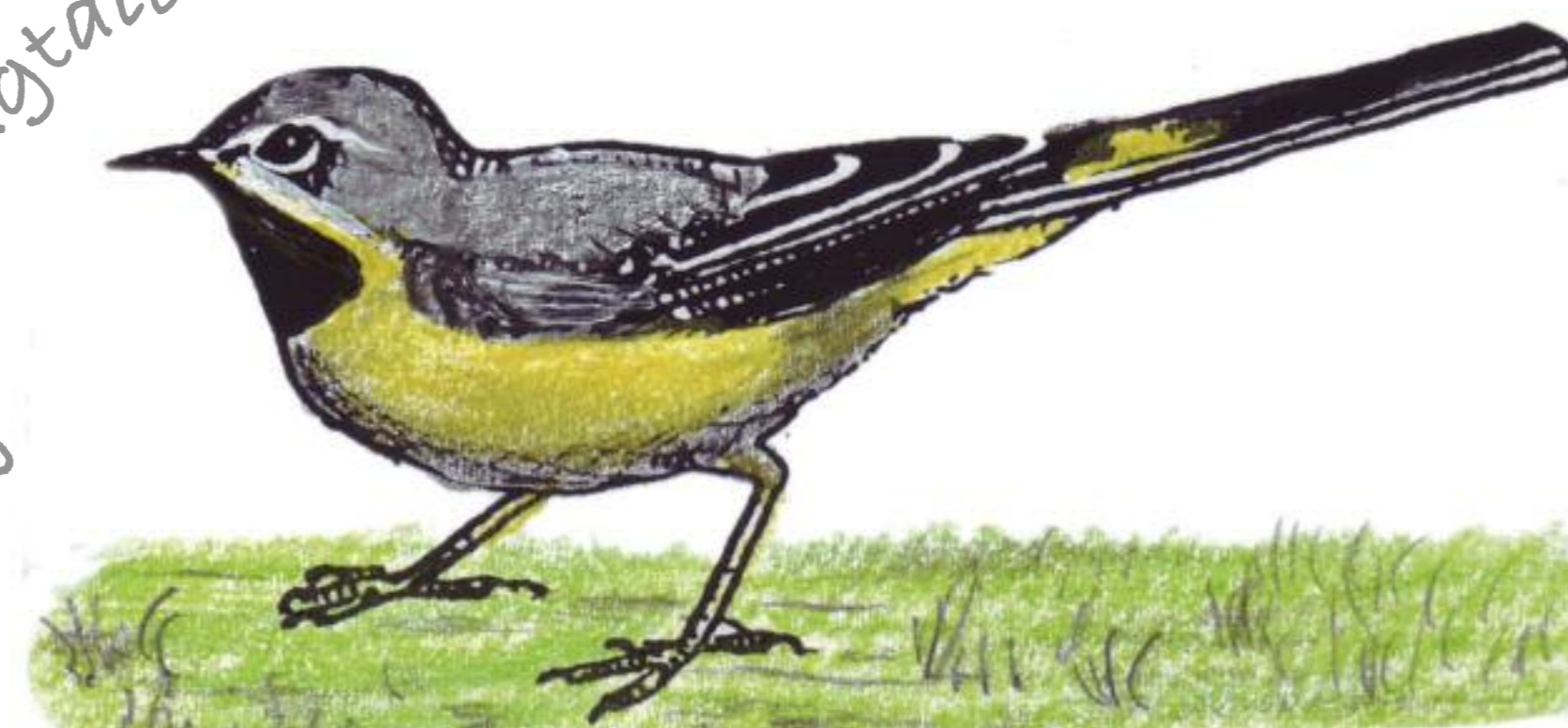
Wagtails

The **Pied Wagtail** and **Grey Wagtail** are sprightly, active birds that run or walk along towpaths and grass verges, tails constantly wagging as they pick up waterside insects. Both nest along the Wandle.

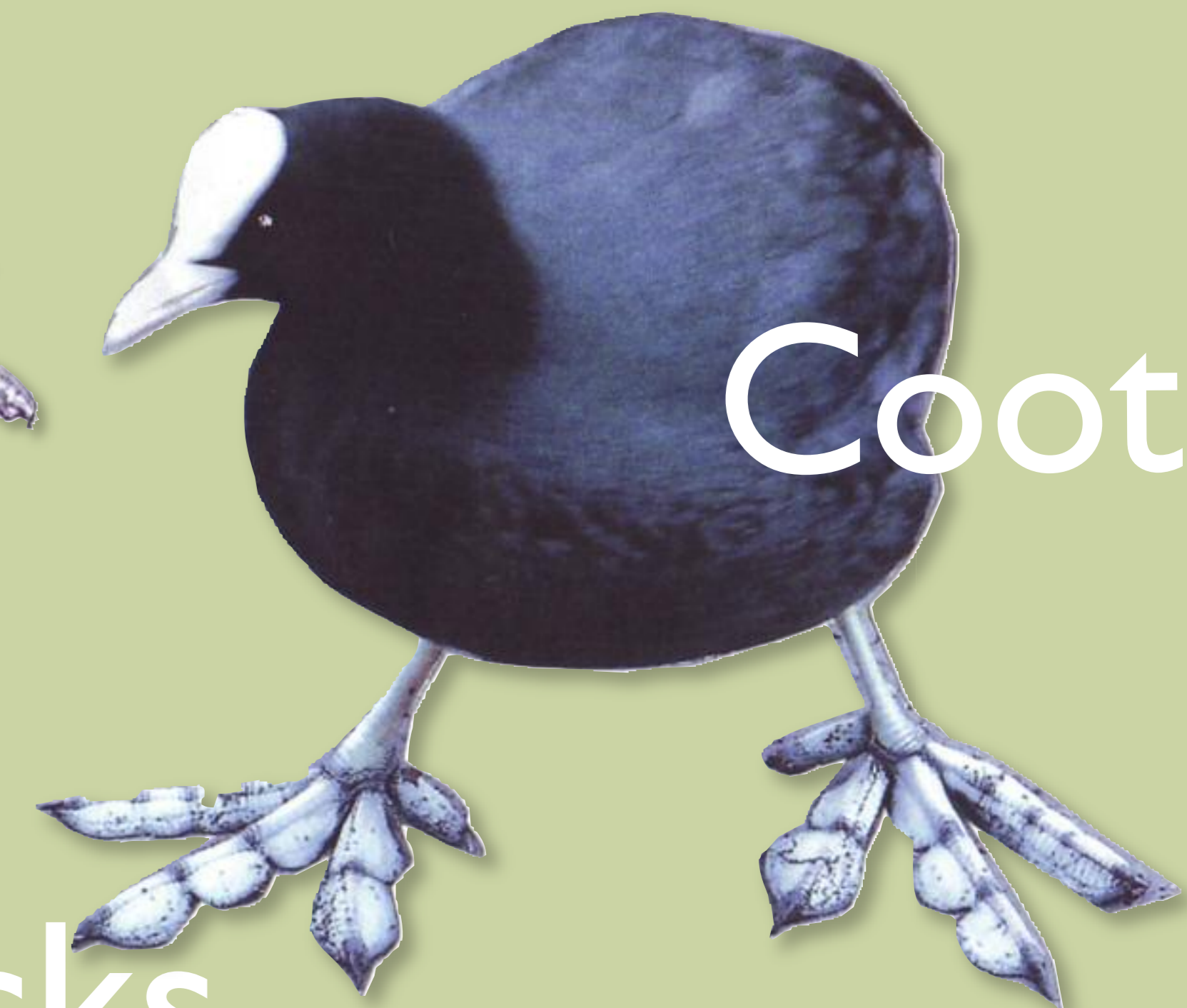
Pied Wagtail



Grey Wagtail



Moorhen



Coot

Ducks

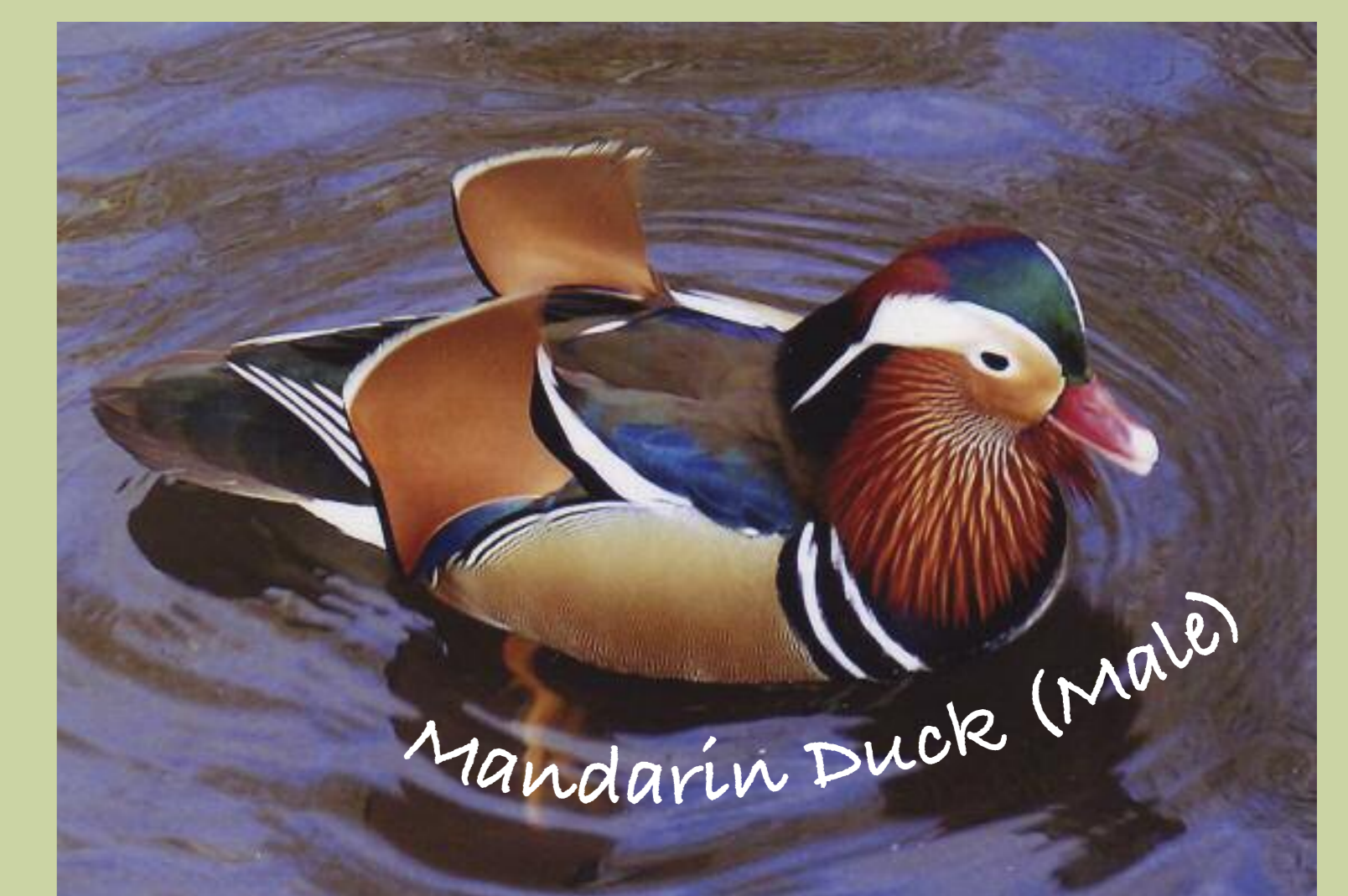


Mallard (Female)

Mallard (Male)



Tufted Duck (Male)



Mandarin Duck (Male)