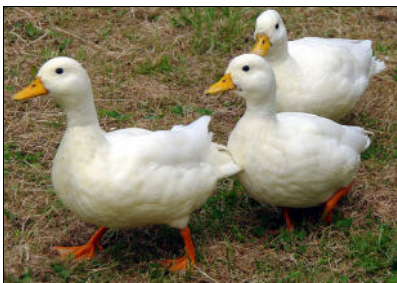


White Ducks

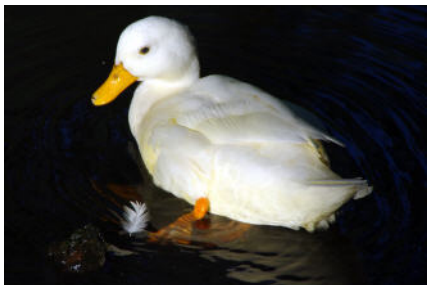


Our **Aylesbury, 'Fiver'**, has a yellow bill and is likely to be an Aylesbury cross. True Aylesburys (a breed of domestic ducks produced mainly for their meat) have pink beaks. Many breeders introduced the Pekin strain into their flock, because they were better layers and more fertile.



White call or decoy ducks were originally bred as decoy ducks. They were used to call down wild ducks for shooting. They are the true dwarfs of the duck world with round heads and short beaks and have a character all of their own. They are sometimes kept as family pets.

These were rescued by London Wildcare and released here in May 2009.



On the main lake you should find some pure white ducks which are almost as big as mallards and also have the same sized beaks. They were hatched and reared by a mallard with several normal coloured ducklings and now look like **White Mallards**.

NOTE: Their ducklings are yellow.

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This handsome duck stands out as he is much bigger than the other ducks. He was released here by London Wildcare with Mr Bib (see below) in June 2009. We nicknamed him **'Toffee'** and think he is a **Khaki Campbell**, from one of the world's best known egg-laying breeds.

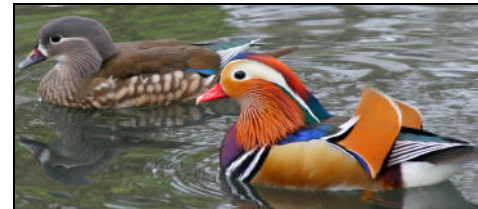


There are two mallard-sized ducks each of which we have nicknamed **'Mr. Bib'**. Unfortunately we don't know what breed or cross they are. From their plumage they look like female Dutch Hookbills, but the beaks are the wrong shape. They also look like Swedish Blues, but 'ours' are brown rather than blue.



The **Muscovy** is known to have existed in a domesticated form in South America in the 16th century. They were bred for their meat which is supposed to be strong tasting. The type we have are called the lavender and white variety. They have a unique red lumpy crest around the beak. Apparently they don't swim as much as other breeds, also their oil glands are not as active and so they are often scruffy ducks. These were released here by London Wildcare in 2008.

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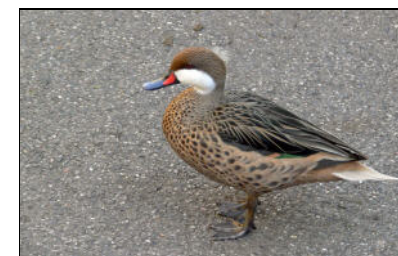


The number of **Mandarins** has increased here over the Winter of 2008/9, and for the first time several pairs produced young in Kelsey Park in the Summer of 2009. The males are easily recognisable by their stunning multi-coloured plumage for most of the year. In June they start to lose all their brightly coloured plumes and moult to look very similar to their pretty females, but by October are back in breeding plumage again.

The following ducks are most likely escapees from private wildfowl collections.



The **Ringed Teal** (*Callonetta leucophrys*) is a small duck originally from the South American forests. The photo is of a male. He does not moult into 'eclipse' plumage as do most other ducks. They have also been seen regularly at Holydale Open Space at Keston.



The **White-cheeked Pintail** or **Bahama Pintail** (*Anas bahamensis*) is a dabbling duck of the Caribbean, South America and the Galapagos Islands. The sexes are similar. One visited Kelsey Park in October 2007 and stayed until the end of January 2008.