

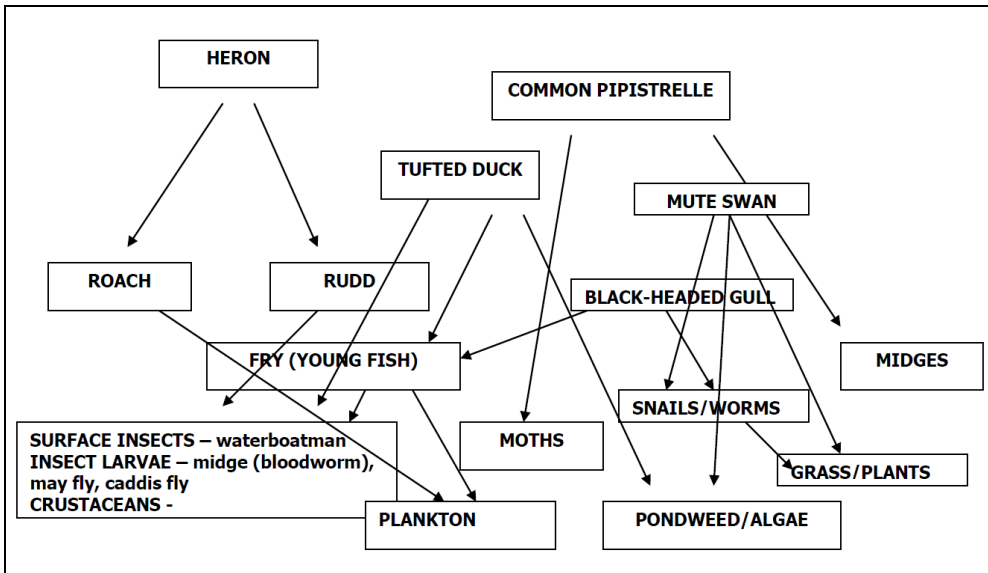
Ecological Significance & Biodiversity



Photographs courtesy of Anthony Woods

The Basin is a haven for a range of wildlife in the city including waterfowl, birds, bats and fish. The reservoir, island, trees, shrubs and aquatic plants provide a range of habitats where wildlife feed and shelter.

Plants play an important role by providing shelter and food for Bats and birds and the insects upon which they feed. Small birds like the Robin and Wren nest in the Ivy covering the walls around the Basin while birds like the Wood pigeon and Blackbird feed on Ivy berries during the winter and into the spring. The Ivy flowers attract Drone-fly, Moths, late Butterflies and other insects. Trees like Oak and Willow provide great habitats for insects and flowering shrubs like Hebe attract bees. Insects found in the water of the Basin are an important food source for fish and water birds. Some insect larvae like Bloodworm (the larvae of the Midge), and Rat-tailed maggots (the larvae of the Drone-fly) are found in the mud at the bottom of ponds while others, like the Water boatman, swim through the water feeding on algae and aquatic plants. Pond skaters dart about on the surface and are in turn preyed on by fish such as Rudd.



Basin Food Web Diagram

Trees



Blessington Street Park has a diversity of tree species that provide structure, visual interest and picturesque back-drops. Tree form and leaf colour have been carefully selected to compliment each other. The park is noted for it's striking display of autumn colour. The park's Liquidamber trees (pictured opposite) provide a fine display in the autumn.