

Birdie of the Month 14

Pink-footed Goose

The ***Pink-footed Goose***

(*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

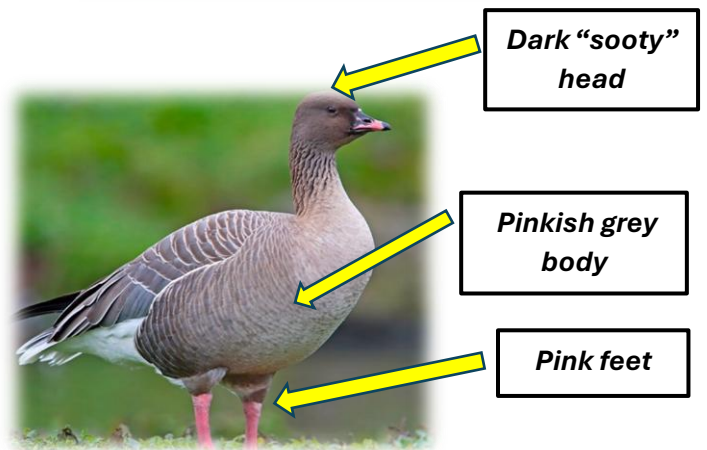
You may have noticed the sight and sound of thousands of geese over the golf course. There is skein after skein, usually early in the mornings, of the distinctive ‘ink inking’ of geese. This is the sound of **Pink-footed Geese** heading to their feeding grounds around our coastline. They can be seen from October to April. There are 45,000+ around Martin Mere and Southport and many more on the Dee, Mersey and Alt estuaries. It is one of the highlights of our autumn wildlife calendar.

They fly in characteristic V-formations (see photo). In total about 360,000 Pink-footed Geese winter in the UK (Scotland, the North-West and East Anglia). They have travelled from their breeding grounds in **Greenland, Iceland and Spitsbergen**. They will stay in the UK from October to April before migrating back.

They can be distinguished from Greylag and Canada geese as they are pinkish grey and have a dark, ‘sooty’ head. They also have pink feet!

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***Pink-footed Geese flying
over CGC in Winter***

Photos by John Fox