

## Pochard

Published: January 15, 2026, 10:07 am

---

It was a pochard sort of day at Welney Bird Reserve this morning:



The above is a male, one of the many hundreds there today. A winter migrant to the UK from the eastern Baltic, as the following shows, most of those present were males. The females (there are two in this picture) go on to Spain for the winter. The belief is that this is because the males return to the breeding grounds first, hoping to woo a mate by having claimed a prime slot by the time the females get back, and so get the chance to breed with her.

These are really attractive dabbling ducks, quite like our all-year-round native tufted ducks in size and behaviour.



They weren't actually the most impressive birds of the day - they were either the several thousand lapwing and golden plover that murmured together whenever a marsh harrier came over or the maybe 800 pink-footed geese on site - again, a winter visitor, which is bank on big numbers. I did not get pictures of either that were useful.

It was a good morning for forgetting Trump, Reeves and the collective madness that is gripping the politics of our economies.