

# Inokashira Park (Musashino, Mitaka)

Migratory birds gather in this urban park.



Inokashira Park is located in a residential area shared between the cities of Musashino and Mitaka. Inokashira Pond at its heart is fed by a natural spring. The park has been laid out to take advantage of the rich natural environment of Musashino.

Many birds gather here from autumn to winter. The pond's edges have been turned into shallow wetlands to restore the original natural environment. Here you can find tall grasses such as reeds and southern cattail. You will also see a lot of different birds here. Another of the attractions of Inokashira Park is the mixed forest. Many people visit here in autumn to enjoy the leaves. Occasionally, a Eurasian goshawk will appear in the forest, hunting for pond birds and other prey.

## What creatures and plants can we see?

Eurasian wigeon	This migratory bird arrives here in winter. The male is noted for his reddish-brown head and cream forehead. With duck species, the males tend to be more showy.
Tufted duck	This is another winter bird. It is noted for its tuft of feathers sweeping back from the head. They eat fish, shellfish, and water insects, so they are good swimmers.
Eurasian coot	Noted for its black body, white beak, and red eyes. It dives underwater to feed on water grasses and so on, but can also be seen foraging on the land.
Little grebe	An excellent diver, it will vanish beneath the surface in an instant when spotted. Breeding pairs have been increasing in Inokashira Park in recent years.
Night heron	The young bird has its own name, with its plumage being quite different from the mature adult.
Grey heron	The biggest heron that breeds in Japan. Many live here, along rivers, in rice paddies, or in park ponds.
Eurasian goshawk	This eats doves and other birds. Once, this bird was a symbol of the satoyama landscape, but these days, it can be found in forested parks or riverbanks in urban areas as well.



Little grebe



Grey heron

Have you seen how there is precious nature even close at hand? These do not maintain themselves with no work. Thanks to the efforts of many different people to conserve the environment, the original environments have been restored and protected. We need to spread activities like this far and wide.