

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

Bird · Winter visitor · Sep–Apr

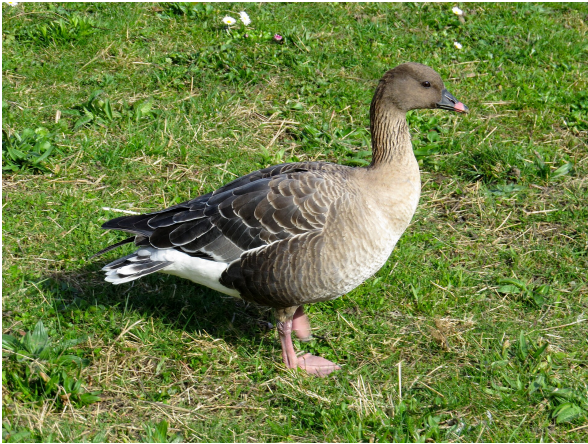


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A compact grey goose with a dark chocolate head and neck, a small dark bill banded with pink, and pink legs. Pink-footed geese arrive on the Solway from Iceland and Greenland in September and stay until April, feeding on stubble, grass and lifted root crops by day and roosting in huge numbers on the estuary sandflats. The Solway holds internationally significant proportions of the world population.

BEHAVIOUR

They are extremely gregarious, moving between roost and feeding fields in disciplined skeins with a high, yelping 'wink-wink' call quite unlike the greylag's cackle. The dawn flight off the estuary roost and the evening return are among the great wildlife spectacles of the Solway. Flocks are wary and shift feeding fields constantly, and rely on the safety of open sandbanks overnight.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Ducks, geese and swans (Anatidae)
SIZE	60–75 cm
UK STATUS	Amber-listed

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