

Rudd

Scardinius erythrophthalmus

Fish · Here all year · spawns Apr-Jun



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A deep-bodied, brassy-golden fish with vivid red-orange fins and a distinctly upturned lower jaw. The reliable way to separate it from a roach is the dorsal fin, which is set clearly behind the pelvic fins rather than directly above them. Rudd live in weedy, still and slow waters around the region, and hybridise with roach and bream where they occur together.

BEHAVIOUR

That upturned mouth is a surface-feeding adaptation: rudd take insects from the film and from overhanging vegetation far more readily than roach, and often cruise high in the water on warm days. They also graze filamentous algae and soft plant material. Spawning is over dense weed in late spring, with the sticky eggs left to adhere to submerged stems.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Carps and minnows (Cyprinidae)
SIZE	Commonly 20-35 cm
UK STATUS	Widespread in still waters; introduced to much of Scotland

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