



**Bird Watching**  
Jane Fawns Watt

Gallery GO is a campaign funded by the National Lottery through the Arts for Everyone scheme. Gallery GO aims, not only to introduce new audiences to contemporary visual arts, but also to make the experience of those currently attending gallery exhibitions more enjoyable.

Focusing on exhibitions at five leading galleries in the Hampshire region: Apex Gallery, John Harvard Gallery, Milton Gallery, Southampton City Art Gallery and The Winchester Gallery, Gallery GO has developed a series of intriguing and stimulating talks and activities for people interested in learning more about contemporary art.

Gallery GO is very pleased to produce this exhibition guide for Jane Fawns Watt's installation *Bird Watching* and hopes it helps to make your visit an enjoyable one.



For more information please contact the Project Co-ordinator at:-

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Gallery GO is funded and supported by:



## Bird Watching Jane Fawns Watt

Apex Gallery

8 September - 20 October 2001

Organised in collaboration with Dominic Berring  
1 Hoxton Street, London, N1 6NL



ASPEX

#### ASPEX GALLERY

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## A Pocket Guide to Bird Watching

This pocket guide aims to help you examine different species of birds at the temporary bird sanctuary in Aspes Gallery. This particular collection of birds is, in many respects, different from those found in the wild and in nature reserves. One of the most striking differences is that the birds are in constant suspended flight. From time to time, their wings will whirr into action which creates the illusion of flight, but no matter how fast their wings rotate, they will remain suspended in the same area of the sanctuary. This exceptional characteristic allows you, the viewer, or bird watcher the unusual opportunity of examining the birds' characteristics at close range.

Through the publication of a visual, rather than a scientific guide, we hope to encourage you to take a closer look at the large flock of different species in the sanctuary and to note the birds' colourings, markings and shapes. The birds in the sanctuary have been selected by the artist Jane Fawcett Watt, primarily for their visual qualities.



**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)**

Named after its striking yellow belly, this variety of woodpecker is predominantly black with complex white markings on the head, back, wings and tail. It has a small red cap and beard. It also has orange v-shaped markings on its chest. Its black propellers have white feather patterns (pattern not shown on this illustration). Note its long black beak which, in the wild, it uses to create sap wells in trees to attract insects. Here we see it clustering close to the walls of the sanctuary.

Origin: North America



**Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)**

The Red-headed Woodpecker is similar in shape to the Sapsucker. It uses its long beak to chisel out insects and food directly from tree trunks. It has a striking red head and neck with a white chest, lower wings and tail. The rest of its body is black. Its propellers are the same as those of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Origin: North America



**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)**

The Painted Bunting is one of the most colourful birds in the sanctuary. Its body is orange-red with a dark blue head and green back. Its tail and wings are dark brown with green markings. The propellers are bright orange-red to match its body. Here, it likes to hover in clusters close to the ground which reflects its natural habitation in low thickets and woodland borders.

Origin: North America



**American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)**

The American Goldfinch has a vibrant yellow body and transparent yellow propellers. It has a black cap, wings and tail. The tail and wings have fine white markings at the tips with larger white areas at the base of both tail and wing feathers. It enjoys the open and is gregarious in character. This is evident in the sanctuary where it attempts to socialise with other flocks.

Origin: North America



**Black Capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*)**

The Black Capped Chickadee is less colourful than the other small birds in the sanctuary. It has a dark brown back with black cap, collar, wings and tail. A broad white stripe runs around its head between eye and cheek. It has a white belly which changes to light brown towards the tail. The propellers are a transparent dark brown-grey. It can be found in woodland clearings and suburban areas. Here it enjoys open areas in the middle of the sanctuary.

Origin: North America



**Common Yellowthroat Warbler (*Geothlypis trichas*)**

The Common Yellowthroat Warbler has a similar vibrant yellow body and propellers to the American Goldfinch. It also shares the same elongated body shape. It has a large expanse of brown-grey which stretches from the top of its head down to the tip of its tail. It has a black mask which is fringed at the top by a white stripe. It also has darker markings at the base of its tail. In the wild it stays low in grassy fields and marshes.

Origin: North America



**Eastern Blue Bird (*Sialia sialis*)**

The Eastern Blue Bird has a striking deep blue back, head and tail. There are tinges of darker blue around the edges of its tail and wings. The blue of its back is echoed in the transparent blue propellers. It has a white chest with an orange-chestnut bib. Its numbers have declined recently due to nesting competition from Starlings and House Sparrows. Therefore we are pleased to see it in abundance here at the sanctuary.

Origin: North America



**House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)**

This variety of finch has a rosy-red cap, bib and rump. Its mask area and upper back are light brown. There are dark brown markings around the eyes and speckles on the back. It has a dark brown tail and wings with light brown linear markings. Its propellers are a transparent rosy-red colour. This species is becoming more abundant, especially in urban areas.

Origin: North America



**Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)**

The pale blue which is characteristic of this bird starts at the tip of its head and runs down to the end of its tail. It is interrupted by a white mask, black collar and green upper back. The underside of the bird is yellow. It has pale blue propellers. It is found in woodlands, orchards and both rural and suburban gardens.

Origin: Britain



**Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)**

The Robin has an orange-red breast which continues up to the eye area. In this particular group of birds at the sanctuary, the white from the lower chest is accentuated by a bluish streak separating the red-breast area from the brown-grey back, wings and tail. It has brown propellers. It enjoys feeding freely in the open, but does not stray too far from cover.

Origin: Britain





**Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)**

The Song Thrush is predominantly light brown with a white lower part of head and chest. Its upper chest is a yellowish brown. It has dark brown speckles on its chest which become finer around the head area. It has brown propellers with black feather patterns (pattern not illustrated here).

The Song Thrush used to be as numerous as the Blackbird, but now its numbers have decreased. This is reflected in the numbers present here at the sanctuary.

Origin: Britain



**Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)**

The Blackbird is glossy black apart from its yellow-orange beak and the yellow-orange rim around its eye. It has black propellers with white feather patterns (again pattern not illustrated). It enjoys the open as well as cultivated and non-cultivated areas. Here it is seen in the open middle area of the sanctuary.

Origin: Britain

## Jane Fawns Watt

Born 1975, Edinburgh

### Education

- 1998 - present Currently researching a PhD at Manchester Metropolitan University, examining the role of the artist in public art in Britain
- 1993 - 1995 MFA Painting at Edinburgh College of Art
- 1994 Four month fellowship to Cleveland Institute of Art, USA
- 1978 - 92 BA Visual Painting, Edinburgh College of Art

### Selected Exhibitions

- 2008 Bird Watching Apers Gallery, Portsmouth, Flock Demosquere Gallery, Brussels
- 2008 Building Craft Farms Museum, Preston, Flock installation at Decorex Berring Gallery, London
- 1999 Memories of Summer, performance/installation Yvonne Light Festival, Helsinki, Light Play Orleans House Gallery, Richmond, London
- 1998 Seeing Hessestew Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, Aurora Tappert Avenue, Liverpool, In Site Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh
- 1997 A Fast Moving Car (an Irving Project), Aberdeenshire, Contact Georgian Festival of Theatre and Arts, Thika, Georgia, Renaissance Shoreditch Town Hall, London, Barrera Apers Gallery, Portsmouth
- 1996 Soundings Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, Sanderlingar Varberg Museum, Varberg, Sweden, Restricted Vision Bellevue-sal, Werdaholm, Germany
- 1995 From Edinburgh Galerie la Chaufferie, Ecole des Arts Occidentaux, Strasbourg, France, Chester Collective Gallery, Edinburgh

### Public Art Commissions

- 1999 Seasonal Preston Guild Hall, for Preston Borough Council
- 1997 Near Easting Edinburgh Dental Institute, for Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh NHS Trust, with Lewis & Hiley (JP), co-ordinated by PHC
- 1996 Order in John's Shopping Centre, Perth for Greenwar Estate Holdings, with Birch & Hill and Jonathan Spiers & Associates, co-ordinated by PHC

### Permanent Collections

- Demosquere Gallery, Brussels
- Orleans House Gallery, Richmond, London
- Varberg Museum, Varberg, Sweden

## Education Events

### All Day Bird Watching at Farnington Marshes

Sunday 16 September 2001

A drop in taster organised by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. All ages welcome, please call 017 9281 2121 or ask the Gallery Attendant for further details. FREE of charge.

### Jane Fawns Watt Gallery Talk

Wednesday 29 September 2001, 7.30pm

An opportunity to hear the artist talk about the installation and its relationship to her previous work. Admission FREE

### Urban Bird Watching Tour

Victoria Park, Portsmouth

Date to be confirmed

Come and find out more about the birds that live in the city. All ages welcome, please call 017 9281 2121 to book as places are limited. FREE of charge.

### The Big Bird Draw

Saturday 20 October 2001, 12-4pm

An open afternoon during which drawing enthusiasts of all ages are invited to come along and draw the 'birds' in the sanctuary. Artists will be on hand with a range of materials to help you get started. Admission FREE

This event is part of the national Big Draw, organised by The Campaign for Drawing.

