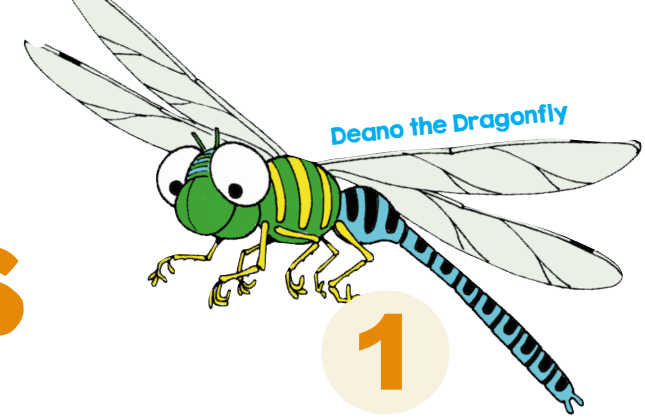




Dragons & Damsels

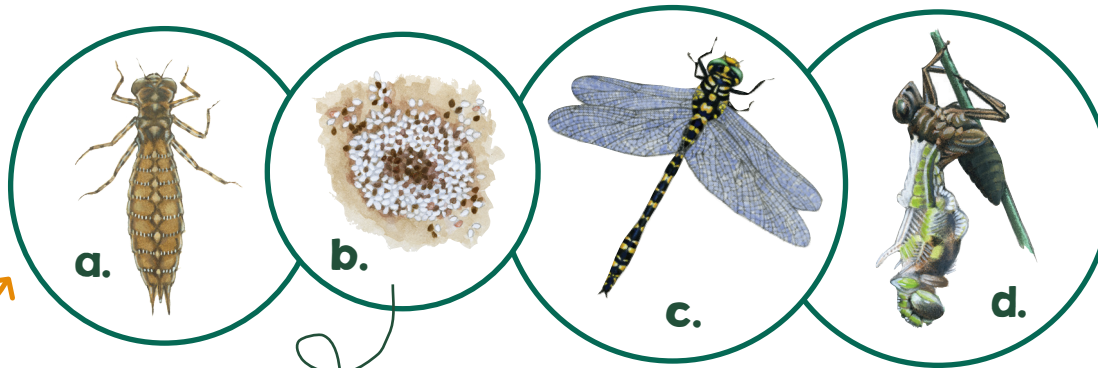


1

Moors Valley is one of the best places in the country to see dragonflies and damselflies, providing a home to over half the species that live in Britain. That is why we have a dragonfly as our logo.

Dragonflies and Damselflies spend most of their lives hidden underwater as larva called nymphs. They only emerge from the water when they are ready to become flying adults.

Can you match each of these pictures to the correct stage of the dragonfly lifecycle?



Eggs → Larva → Emergence → Adult dragonfly

Wildlife Watch

Look... Which of these lifecycle stages can you see on the dragonfly sculpture? One is missing - which one is it?

Have a go...

Try flying around like a dragonfly... remember to keep your arms out straight like the dragonfly's wings! Hawker dragonflies can fly for a long time. See how long you can fly around without taking a rest.

Fact File #1 'Spot the Difference'

Damselflies have thin bodies and two pairs of wings that are about the same size and shape. When they aren't flying they close their wings along their body.

Dragonflies have thicker bodies. Their back wings are thicker than their front wings. They cannot fold their wings so always hold them out like aeroplane wings when they aren't flying.

Can you tell which one is which in this photograph?



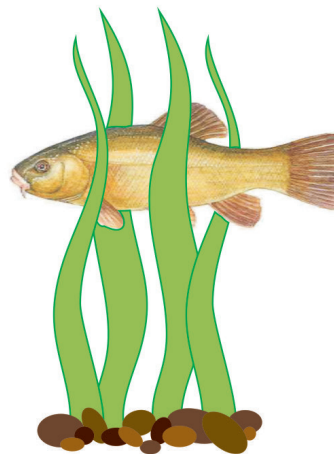


Something Fishy

Moors Lake and Moors River are both important habitats for wildlife. Moors Lake was dug in 1985. It has a natural clay bottom and is fed by the Moors River. Fish that can be found in Moors lake are Roach, Rudd, Tench, Perch and Dace.



Tench like to eat bloodworms and other bottom feeders.



Can you find the route through the maze to find the fish's food?



Fact File #2 'Scales'

Scales help fish become streamlined and hydrodynamic, meaning that they can move through the water smoothly.

Scales can also help to camouflage the fish to help prevent them from being eaten by predators.

Perch have coloured stripes down their bodies to help with camouflage.

Can you see the stripes on the Perch in this picture?



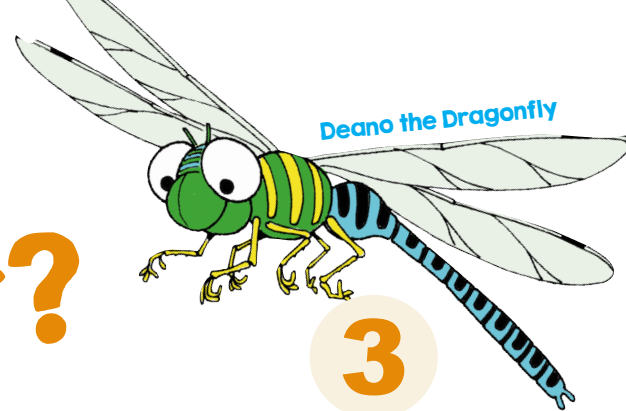
Wildlife Watch

Look... Can you see any bubbles on the surface of the water which show where the fish are feeding?



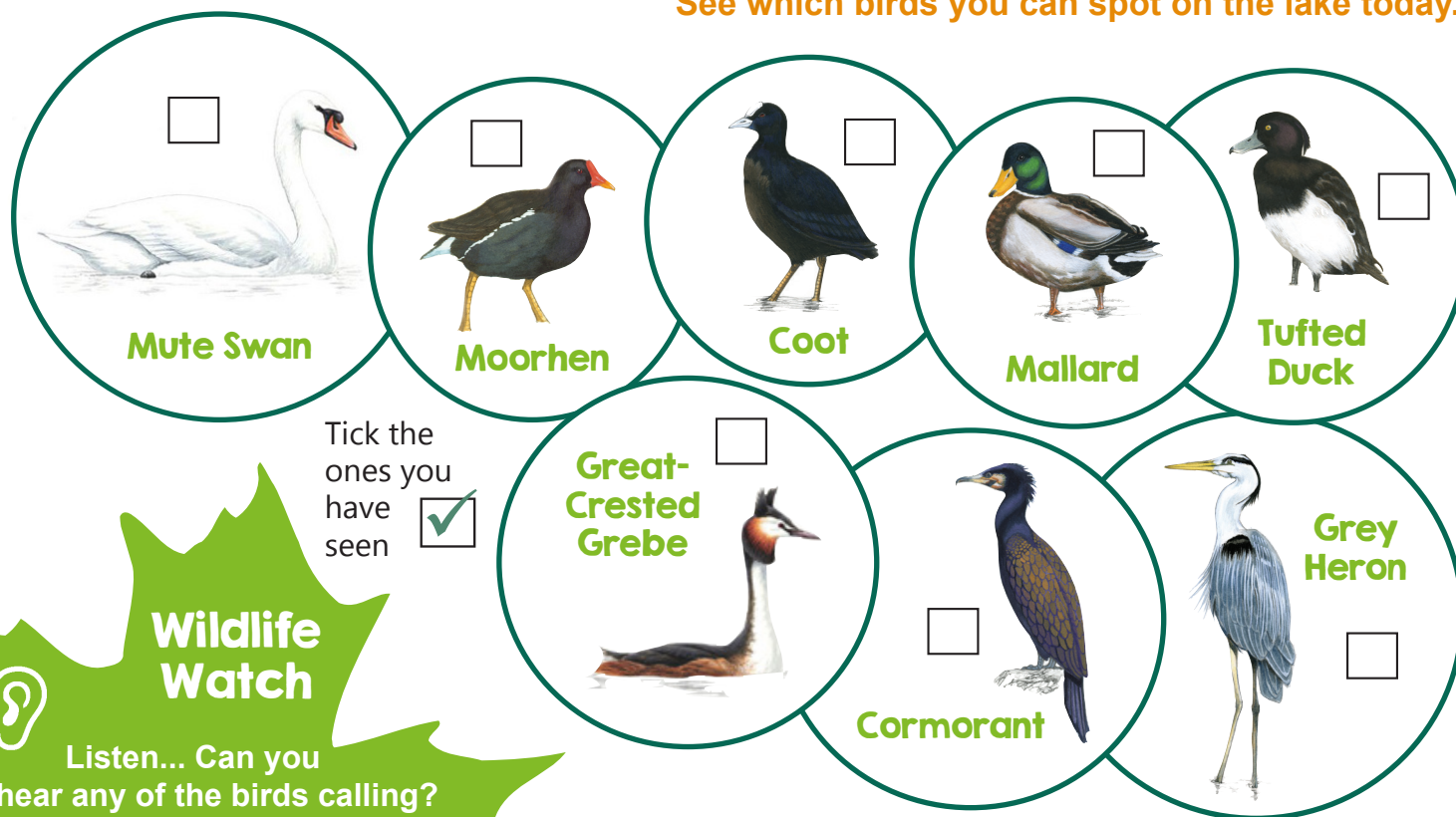


What's on the Water?



Here at Moors Valley we have lots of wetland birds.
Some live here all year round and some are only winter or summer visitors.

See which birds you can spot on the lake today.



Tick the
ones you
have
seen ☒

Wildlife Watch



Listen... Can you
hear any of the birds calling?
Which bird is the noisiest?
What other sounds can
you hear?

Fact File #3 'Home sweet home'

Water birds generally make their
nests on the ground near the edge
of the water, or as a 'floating' nest.

Nests take a lot of work for birds
to make, using only their beaks to
weave in new material.

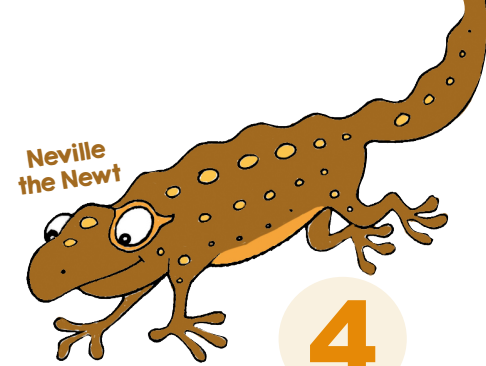
Have a go...

See if you can make your own
nest on the ground away from the
path. To make it even
harder, try and
only use your
thumb and
index finger,
like a birds
beak!





Secretive Water Voles

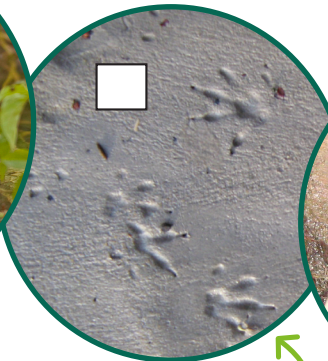


Water voles are quite shy creatures so if you spot one you are very lucky.

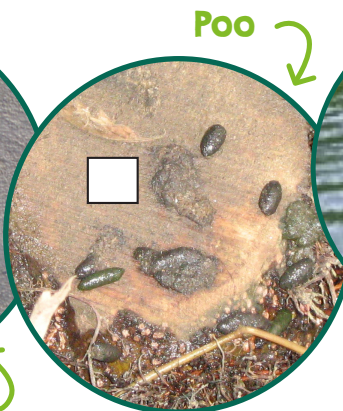
They are also very rare. The water voles here were successfully re-introduced by the Rangers. The Rangers monitor how well the water voles are doing by recording sightings and life signs. These are some of the things the Rangers look out for.



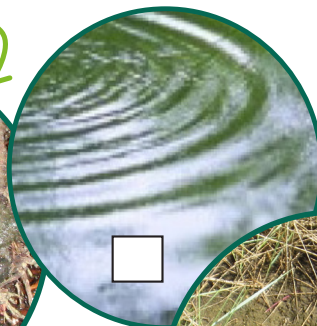
Water Vole



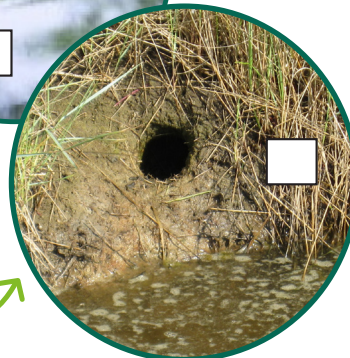
Footprints



Poo



Ripples in the water



Burrow in the river bank

Wildlife Watch



Listen... See if you can hear the distinctive 'plop' sound as a water vole jumps into the river.

Have a go...

Can you be a Ranger and look for some of these signs that water voles are around. Keep looking carefully as you walk along the path to the next stop.

Tick the ones you have seen



Fact File #4 'Ratty'

Water voles are bigger than other voles with brown fur, a flat nose and small ears. They eat grasses, reeds and rushes that grow near the river.

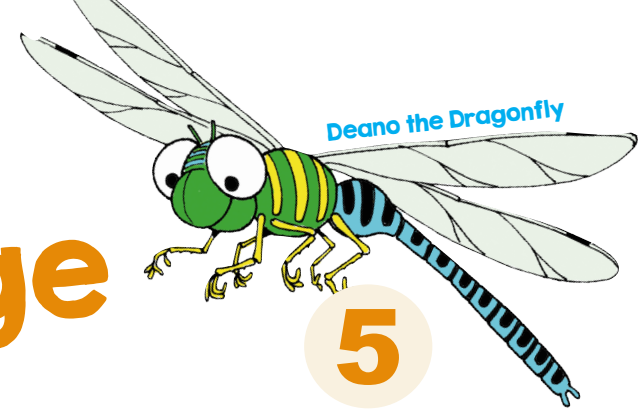
They live in a network of burrows in the banks of the river. They usually have lots of entrances, some above water and some below water so they can escape if they are in danger.

Can you see the baby vole in this picture? The parent is moving it to somewhere safer.





Fun at Kings Farm Bridge



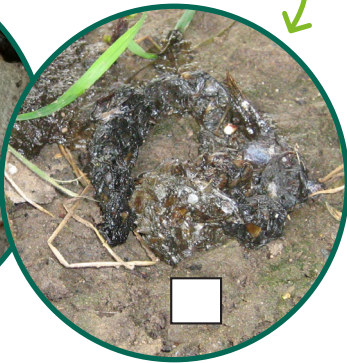
5

Water voles are quite shy creatures so if you spot one you are very lucky. They are also very rare. Our water voles were successfully re-introduced by the Rangers. We monitor how well the water voles are doing by recording sightings and life signs. These are some of the things we look out for.

Otter footprints

Otter poo

Tick the ones you have seen ☒



Have a go...

This bridge is a perfect place to play Pooh Sticks - a fun game invented by Winnie the Pooh!

- 1 Find a stick and make sure you know what it looks like.
- 2 Stand on the upstream side of the bridge holding your stick over the edge.
- 3 Someone shouts "Go!" and everyone drops their stick into the water at the same time (no cheating!).
- 4 Run to the other side of the bridge (downstream) and keep watching to see whose stick is the first to appear from underneath the bridge. The person whose stick appears first is the winner!



Wildlife Watch

If you are visiting in the summer, look out for damselflies with black wings flying near the river. These are Banded and Beautiful Damsoiselles.

Fact File #5 'Otters'

Most of the otter's diet made up of fish, but also eat other prey like rabbits and young water birds. They have incredibly sharp teeth.

Otters have long streamlined bodies, about 1 metre in length, with a flat head with a wide muzzle. They live solitary lives and only the females will remain with their cubs. They are only found near water, where the roots of the bankside trees make safe places for sleeping and raising cubs.





An Underwater World

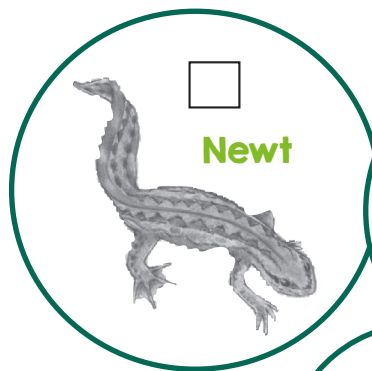
Neville
the Newt



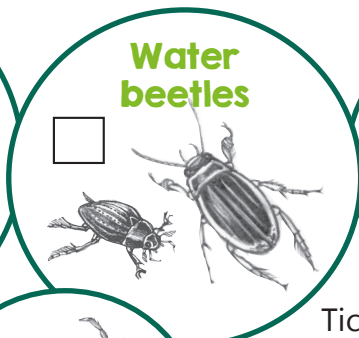
6

Under the surface of the water there is a whole world to see.

From the boardwalk you might be able to see some of the smaller animals that live in the water. These are good food for bigger animals to eat.



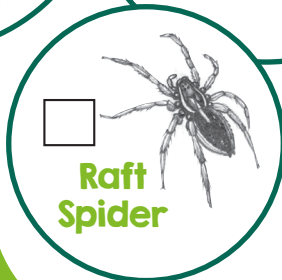
Newt



Water
beetles

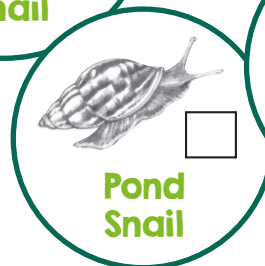


Ramshorn
Snail



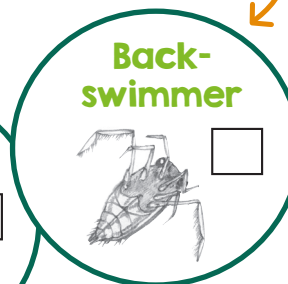
Raft
Spider

Tick the
ones you
have
seen



Pond
Snail

Count the legs.
Which of these creatures
are insects?



Back-
swimmer

Fact File #6 'Invertebrates'

Invertebrates are animals without a backbone. Instead, some have a hard external shell or skin to give them shape or protect themselves from being eaten.

Insects are a type of invertebrate. They all have **6 legs** and 3 main body parts - a head, a thorax and an abdomen.

Lots of invertebrates live in water for some or all of their life. Some can swim and some walk on the surface of the water.



Wildlife Watch



Look... If you are visiting in the spring see if you can spot any frogspawn or tadpoles in the water.

Have a go...

Make up your own underwater invertebrate.

- 1 What is it called?
- 2 What does it eat?
- 3 Where does it lurk?
- 4 How does it protect itself from being eaten?

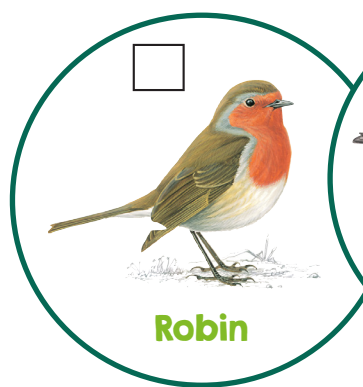




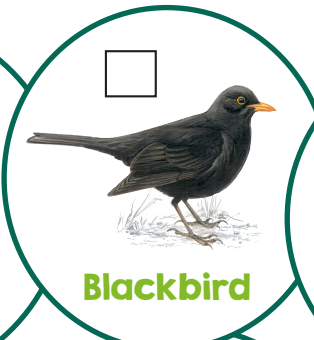
Woodland Birds

Over 100 types of bird can be seen at Moors Valley.
These are some of the most common birds you might see in the trees around Moors Lake.

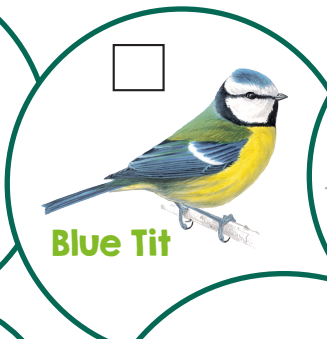
See which ones you can spot today.



Robin



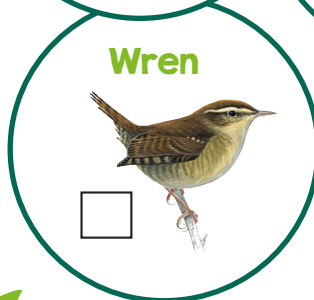
Blackbird



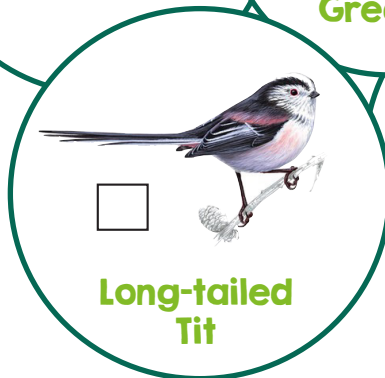
Blue Tit



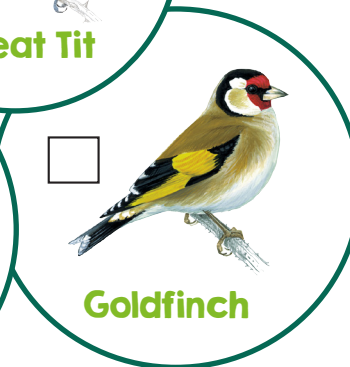
Great Tit



Wren



Long-tailed
Tit



Goldfinch

Tick the
ones you
have
seen



Fact File #7 'Feathers'

Feathers are used for flying, warmth and camouflage.

Feathers are made of a hollow shaft with barbs which work like a zip and stick to each other. This helps them hold their shape for flying. Birds keep their feathers clean and tidy using their beak to zip the barbs together. This is called preening.

Can you find
any feathers on
the ground?
What do they
feel like?
Can you zip and
unzip the barbs?



7

Wildlife Watch



Listen... Can you
hear any birds calling?
Do they get louder or
quieter as you get near to
them?

Have a go...

Some birds are named after what they like to eat or what they look like. If you were a bird, what would your name be?

.....

