

## Flatworm



*Dugesia polychroa*

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 20mm            |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common       |
| Camouflage        | 3 brown/mottled brown |
| Food chain        | 2 carnivore           |

### Invertebrate

Flatworms are very simple animals. They just have a gut (stomach) and don't have a bottom. They have one opening to take in food and get rid of waste. With no lungs or gills, they get their oxygen from their surroundings, so all their cells are close to the outside, which is why they are flat!

## Leech



*Glossiphonia complanate*

|                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 27mm                      |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common                 |
| Camouflage        | 3 brownish with green spots     |
| Food chain        | 2 carnivore, mainly eats snails |

### Invertebrate

Leeches belong to the same group as earthworms, except most species live in water rather than soil. They're famous for sucking blood, but many species actually suck the innards (body fluids) out of their food! Unlike most leeches, *G.complanate* looks after its babies.

## Pond Snail!



Jenkins Spire Snail

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 5-6mm               |
| How common/Rarity | 1 common                  |
| Camouflage        | 3 fairly camouflaged      |
| Food chain        | 1 eats plants and animals |

### Invertebrate

This species is originally from New Zealand but was brought to England in 1859. It's known as an 'invasive species'. It has spread so much that it is now common here and throughout most of Europe and is the second most invasive gastropod (snail family) in Europe!

## Bloodworm



Chironomid midge larvae

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 10mm         |
| How common/Rarity | 1 common           |
| Camouflage        | 1 It's bright red! |
| Food chain        | 1 herbivore        |

### Invertebrate

Bloodworms are red because they have high level of iron (haemoglobin) in their blood so they can get enough oxygen from the water even in low oxygen levels.

## Diving Beetle



*Platambus maculatus*

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 8mm              |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common        |
| Camouflage        | 2 It's brown and black |
| Food chain        | 2 carnivore            |

### Invertebrate

This group of beetles has one of the largest sized UK beetles, up to 40mm! They have large paddle-like back legs for swimming and chasing prey and strong front ones for gripping it!

## Mayfly nymph



*Baetis rhodani*

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 20mm              |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common         |
| Camouflage        | 3 Dark brown            |
| Food chain        | 1 Herbivore - eat algae |

### Invertebrate

Mayflies spend most of their life in water as larvae. They hatch out into adults in the summer and then only live for a short time - sometimes only hours in which they mate then die!

## River Limpet



*Ancylus fluviatilis*

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Body size length  | up to 5-8mm     |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common |
| Camouflage        | 3               |
| Food chain        | 1 herbivore     |

### Invertebrate

River limpets belong to the same family as ramshorn snails. They are really sensitive to pollution, but are usually only killed by high levels.

## Pill Clam



*Pisidium subtruncatum*

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Body size length  | up to 4mm       |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common |
| Camouflage        | 2 grey/white    |
| Food chain        | 2 omnivore      |

### Invertebrate

Pill clams are 'suspension feeders' which means that they feed on microscopic animals and particles that float in the water.

## freshwater shrimp



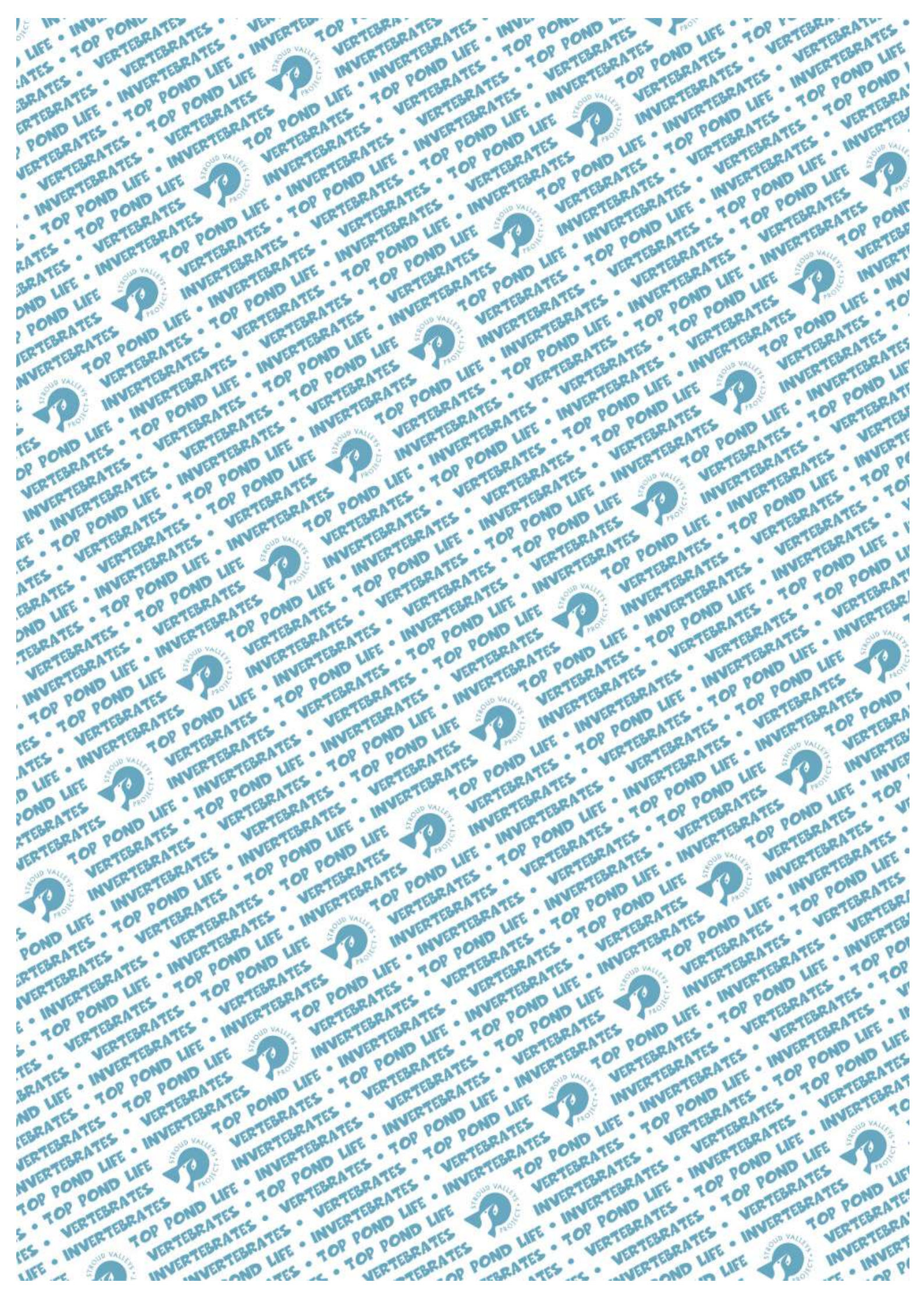
*Gammarus pulex*

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Body size length  | up to 21mm   |
| How common/Rarity | 1 common     |
| Camouflage        | 3 grey/brown |
| Food chain        | 2 Omnivore   |

### Invertebrate

Although they are commonly called shrimps, they aren't! Males choose a female most likely to produce lots of eggs. He then carries her for several weeks until she's ready to mate. He then lets her go and she carries the developing young in a brooding pouch, a bit like a kangaroo!







## Alderfly



*Sialis lutaria*

Body size length up to 14mm

How common/Rarity 1 common

Camouflage 3 they are dark brown

Food chain 0 adults may not even feed

**Invertebrate**

They are often found on plants next to the river which is where they get their name! If you find their larvae in your pond it means that the water is likely to be unpolluted. Adults may only live for a couple of weeks and may not feed in that time.

## Emperor dragonfly



*Anax imperator*

Body size length up to 78mm

How common/Rarity 2 quite common

Camouflage 1 males are blue and green

Food chain 3 predator

**Invertebrate**

They are amazing flyers! They have two pairs of wings and each pair moves in a different motion making them look like a tiny helicopter. This helps them to catch and feed on butterflies and other dragonflies.

## Northern Caddisfly larvae



*Drusus annulatus*

Body size length up to 40mm

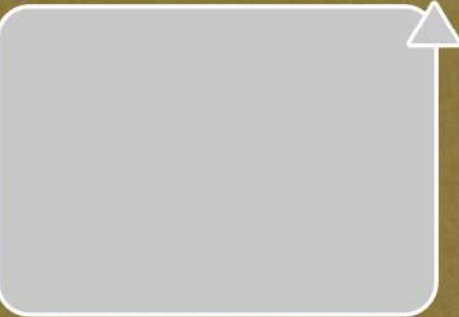
How common/Rarity 2 fairly common

Camouflage 4 covered in stones

Food chain 1 herbivore

**Invertebrate**

They cover themselves with sticks and stones and are thought to get their name from 'caddice men' - Elizabethan street sellers who sold braid and had samples stitched to their coats.



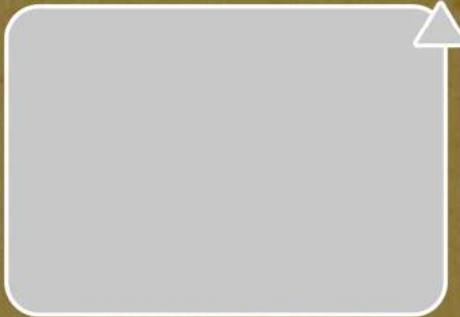
Body size length

How common/Rarity

Camouflage

Food chain

**Invertebrate**



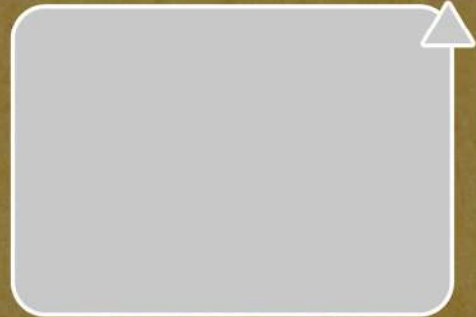
Body size length

How common/Rarity

Camouflage

Food chain

**Invertebrate**



Body size length

How common/Rarity

Camouflage

Food chain

**Invertebrate**

## RULES



**Body size length**  
Biggest wins

**How common/Rarity**

Rarest wins

1 = Common

2 = Fairly common

3 = Rare

4 = Endangered

**Camouflage**

Most camouflaged wins

1 = Colourful

2 = Quite colourful

3 = Quite camouflaged

4 = Very camouflaged

**Food chain**

Higher in chain wins

1 = Herbivore

2 = Carnivore

3 = Predator

## EAT OR GET EATEN WILL YOU BE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN?

### What do you eat?

A **carnivore** is any organism that eats meat as the main part of its diet.

An **omnivore** is an organism that has the ability to eat and survive on both plant and animal matter.

An **herbivore** is an organism that feeds mostly on plants. Herbivores range in size from tiny insects such as aphids to large, lumbering elephants.

### Predator or Prey?

A **predator** is any animal or other organism that hunts and kills other organisms (their prey), primarily for food.

## Conservation concern



**Green**

Species on the green list are the least critical group.



**Amber**

Species whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years.

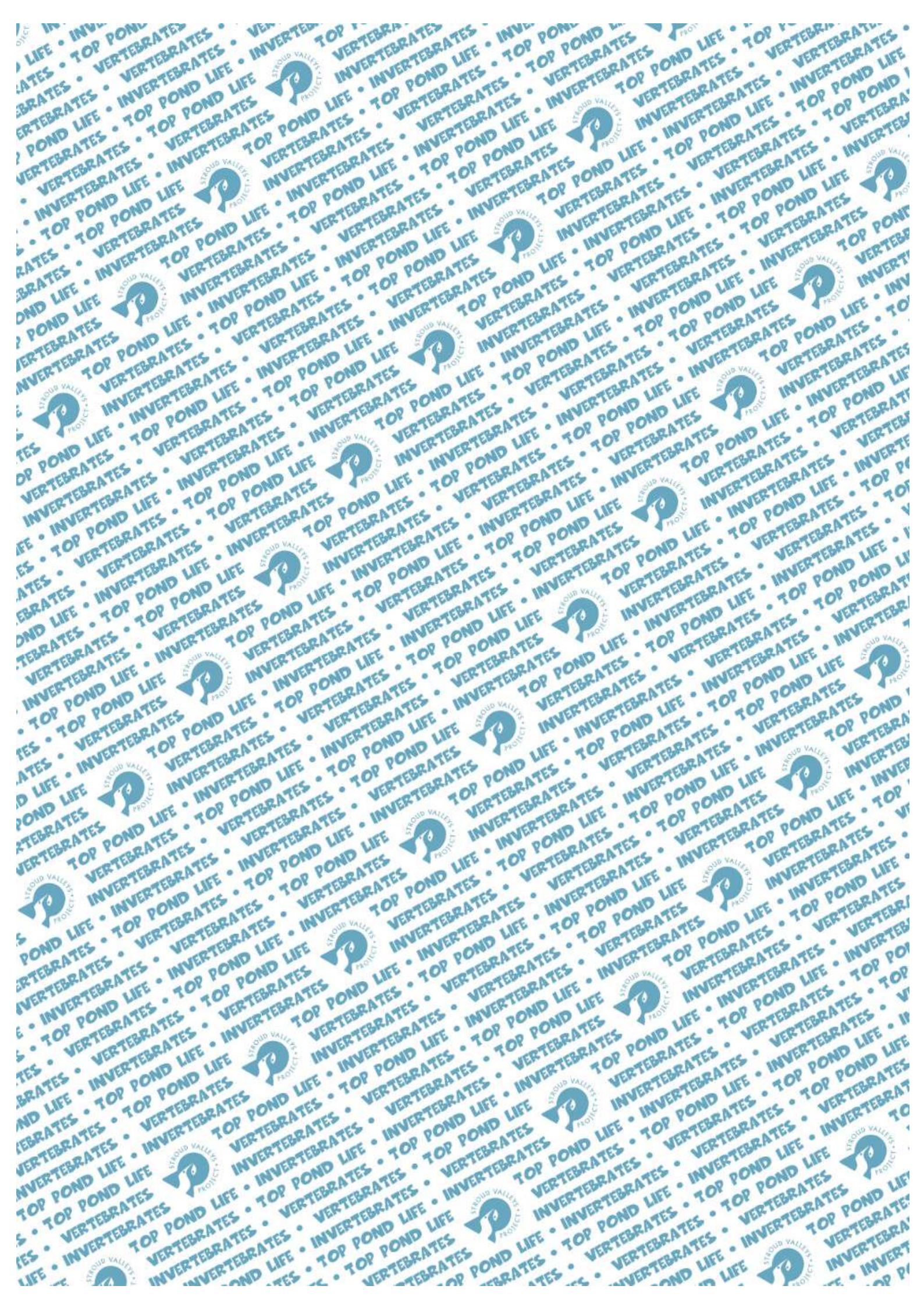


**Red**

Red is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action.









## Grey wagtail



Motacilla cinerea

Body size length up to 190mm

How common/Rarity 3 rare

Camouflage 1 bright yellow underside

Food chain 2 carnivore

Vertebrate

Even though they have a bright yellow belly, they are commonly known as the 'grey wagtail' which can be confusing as there is also a 'yellow wagtail' which has even more yellow parts! They eat ants, midges, snails and tadpoles.

## Mallard



Anas platyrhynchos

Body size length up to 620mm

How common/Rarity 1 very common

Camouflage 2 brown in the summer

Food chain 2 omnivore

Vertebrate

In the summer, the male (drake) with emerald green head, moult and looks very similar to the female - this is called 'eclipse' plumage - and offers better camouflage until their flight feathers have been fully replaced. You can tell them apart by the male's curled black tail feather.

## Otter



Lutra lutra

Body size length up to 800mm

How common/Rarity 3 rare

Camouflage 3 brown

Food chain 3 predator

Vertebrate

Otters are really hard to see, so look for their footprints in the mud and their poo or 'spraints'. They leave spraints as smelly signposts for mates and competitors. They contain fish bones and people have said they smell like Jasmine tea! They eat fish, waterbirds and amphibians.

## Dipper



Cinclus cinclus

Body size length up to 180mm

How common/Rarity 3 rare - amber list

Camouflage 3 brown with white throat

Food chain 2 carnivore

Vertebrate

Dippers walk straight into, and completely under, the water to find their food. To help them see under the water, they have a third, transparent eyelid called a 'nictitating membrane' that they can close! They eat underwater minibeasts, such as stonefly and caddis fly larvae.

## Daubenton's bat



Myotis daubentonii

Body size length up to 55mm

How common/Rarity 2 quite common

Camouflage 3 they have brown fur

Food chain 3 predator

Vertebrate

They used to be called water bats because they live near freshwater. They hunt over the water and catch their insect prey either with their big, hairy feet or scoop them up with their webbed tail! Daubenton's bats roost near water, in tunnels or under bridges, and in holes in trees.

Body size length

How common/Rarity

Camouflage

Food chain

Vertebrate

Body size length

How common/Rarity

Camouflage

Food chain

Vertebrate

Body size length

How common/Rarity

Camouflage

Food chain

Vertebrate

Body size length

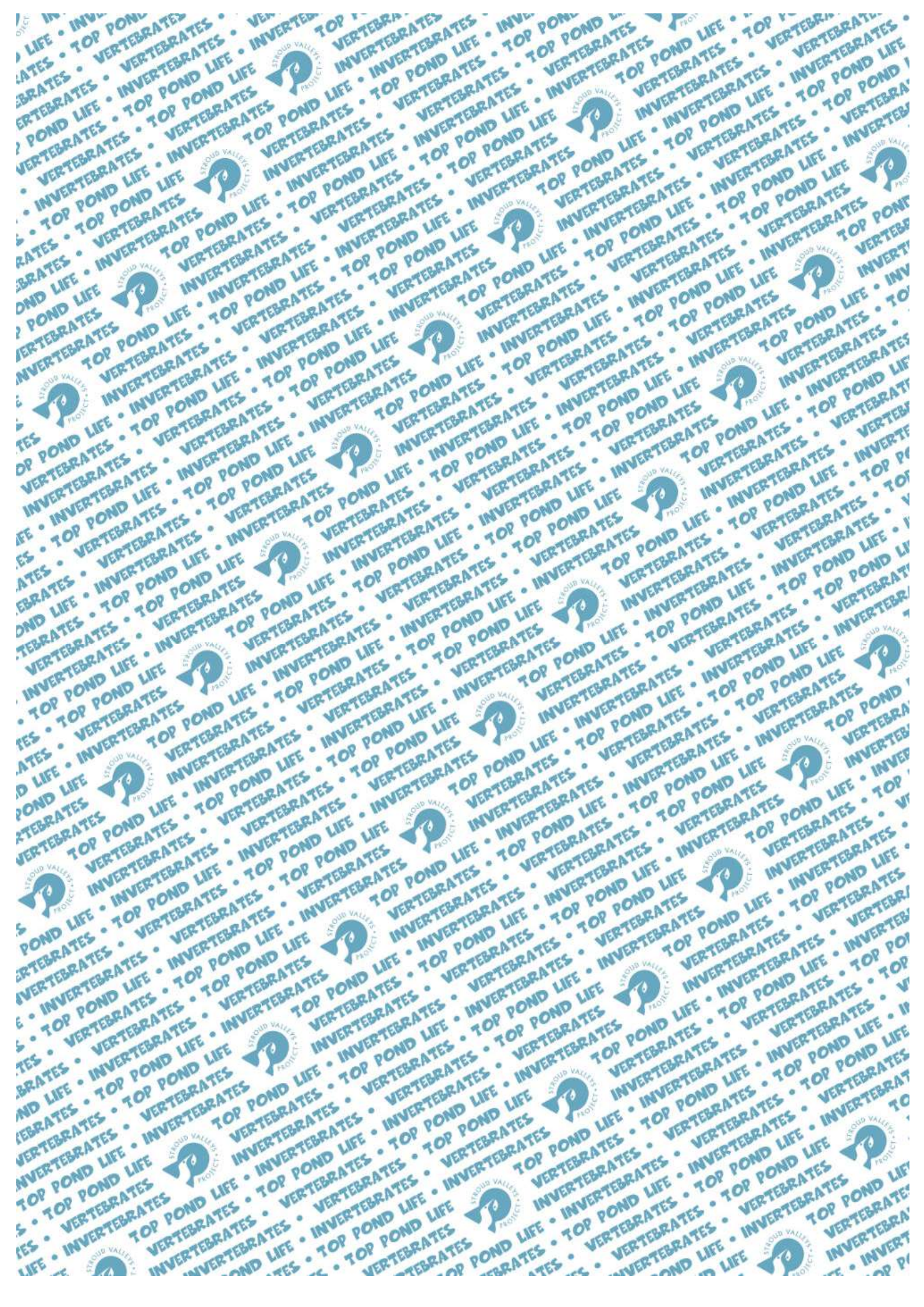
How common/Rarity

Camouflage

Food chain

Vertebrate







## Minnow



*Phoxinus phoxinus*

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 100mm      |
| How common/Rarity | 1 common         |
| Camouflage        | 2 greenish brown |
| Food chain        | 2 omnivore       |

### Vertebrate

In the mating season, male's bellies deepen in colour and can become emerald, gold and red with white fin bases. They also develop white knobby bits over their heads and fins to help with spawning.

## Bullhead



*Cottus gobio*

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 100mm               |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common           |
| Camouflage        | 2 brown with pale bellies |
| Food chain        | 2 carnivore               |

### Vertebrate

Bullheads live in tiny 'caves' under rocks, with many living their whole lives under the same rock! The males look after their fry (baby fish) in their caves until they're big enough to leave.

## Three-spined stickleback



*Gasterosteus aculeatus*

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 60mm                  |
| How common/Rarity | 1 common                    |
| Camouflage        | 2 dark grey or bluish green |
| Food chain        | 3 predator                  |

### Vertebrate

Sticklebacks typically have three, sharp spines on their back. In the mating season, males develop a metallic sheen and a bright orange or red belly. They perform a dance to attract females and look after their young until they can fend for themselves.

## Lamprey



*Lampetra*

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 500mm                 |
| How common/Rarity | 3 rare                      |
| Camouflage        | 2 dark with white underside |
| Food chain        | 2 carnivore                 |

### Vertebrate

Lampreys look a little like eels but are not related. They belong to the same group as sharks and rays (cartilaginous fish). They have a toothed, sucker-mouth and use this to attach to other fish and dead animals, gnawing away at their flesh to feed on their bodily fluids!

## Brown Trout



*Salmo trutta*

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 800mm         |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common     |
| Camouflage        | 3 lots of variation |
| Food chain        | 3 predator          |

### Vertebrate

People used to think that brown trout and sea trout were two separate species, but they are the same. The only difference is 'sea' trout spend most of their lives in the sea, only coming back to freshwater to mate and lay eggs.

## Eel



*Anguilla anguilla*

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 1000mm               |
| How common/Rarity | 4 endangered               |
| Camouflage        | 2 silver to olive green    |
| Food chain        | 3 predator - feeds on fish |

### Vertebrate

Eels are famous for their massive journey from where they hatch in the western Atlantic. They can live in both salt and fresh water and can even survive out of water for some time in their search for a new home!

## Moorhen



*Gallinula chloropus*

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 350mm            |
| How common/Rarity | 1 common               |
| Camouflage        | 2 red and yellow beaks |
| Food chain        | 2 omnivore             |

### Vertebrate

They can be found nearly anywhere there is freshwater. They build very messy nests on the ground. Moorhens are omnivores, eating everything from snails and insects to small fish and berries. They can climb trees!

## Kingfisher



*Alcedo atthis*

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 170mm                |
| How common/Rarity | 3 on the amber list        |
| Camouflage        | 1 males are very colourful |
| Food chain        | 3 predator                 |

### Vertebrate

Kingfishers must eat at least their own bodyweight of fish every day, so it's important that they have space to find food without competition. This is called a territory and tend to cover at least 1km of river, but can be up to 3/5 km!

## Grey heron



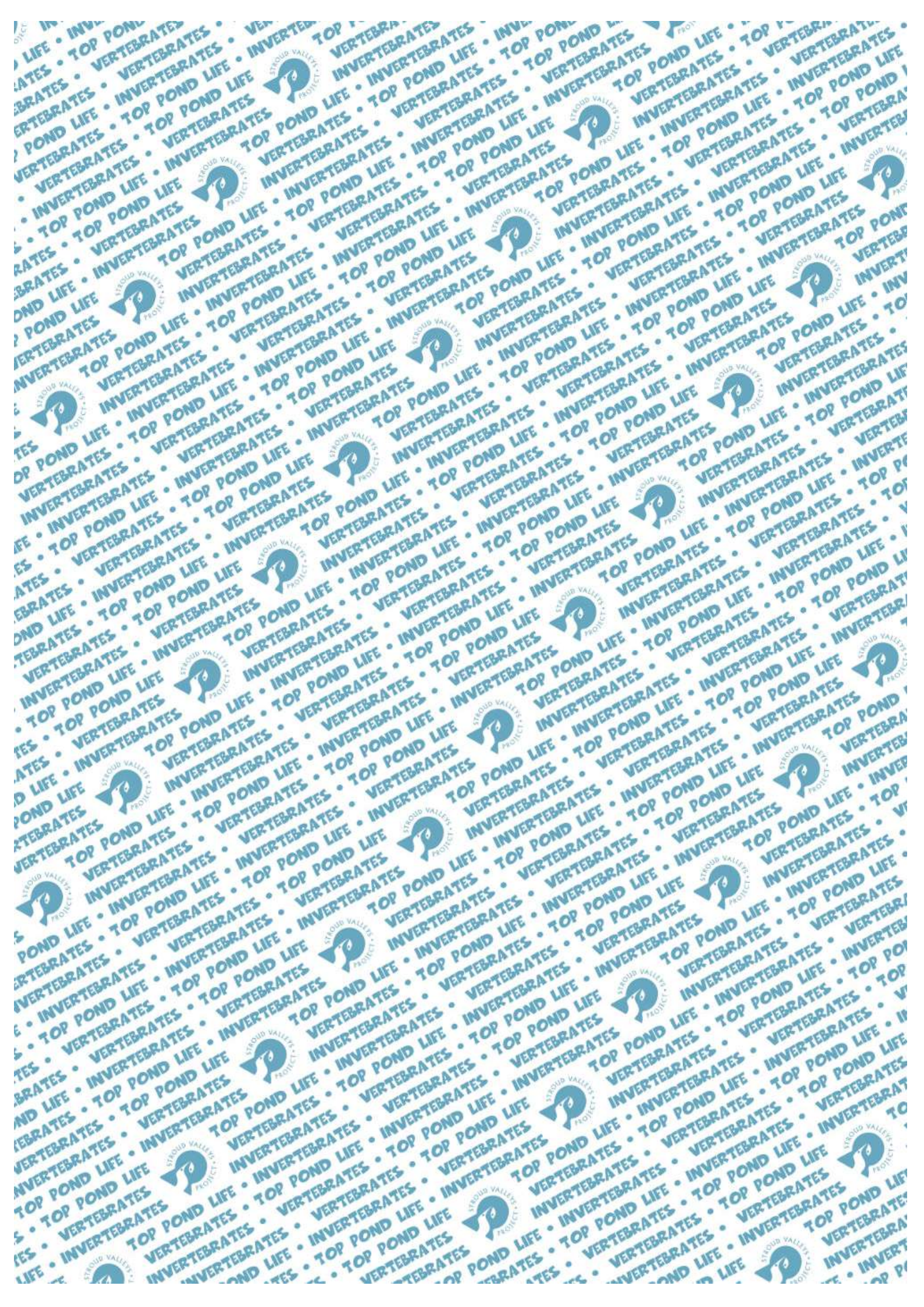
*Ardea cinerea*

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Body size length  | up to 940mm               |
| How common/Rarity | 2 fairly common           |
| Camouflage        | 2 white neck, yellow beak |
| Food chain        | 3 predator                |

### Vertebrate

They nest together with other herons in colonies called 'heronries'. They feed mainly on fish and are often seen, as still as a statue, in shallow waters of ponds and lakes. These tall birds spend most of their time alone feeding.

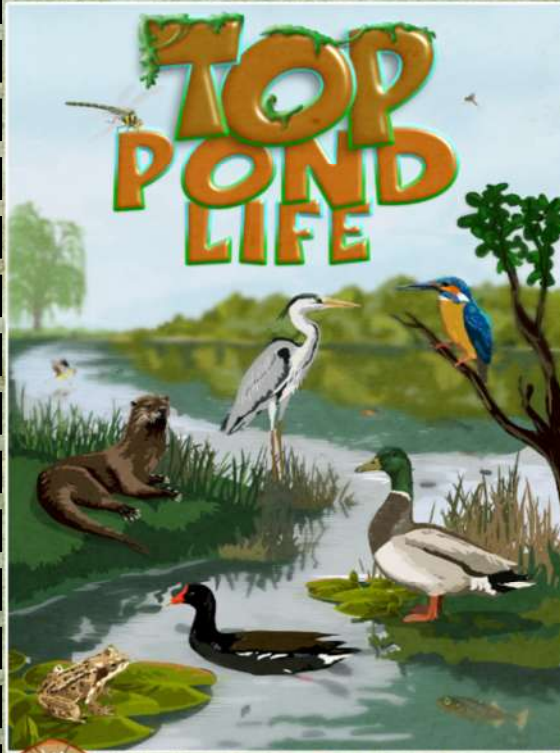






TOP POND LIFE

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**EAT OR GET EATEN**  
WILL YOU BE TOP OF  
THE FOOD CHAIN?

Glue this tab to the back

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