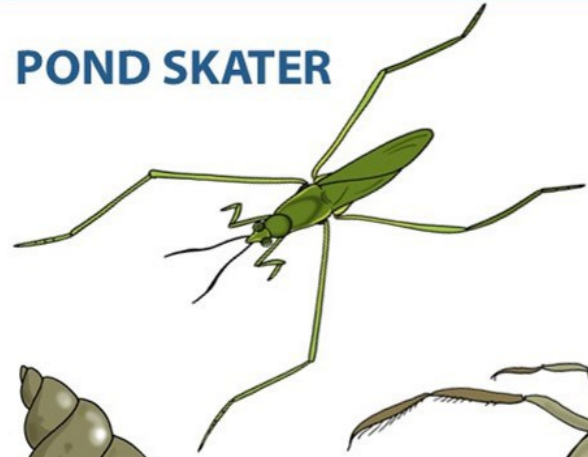


FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

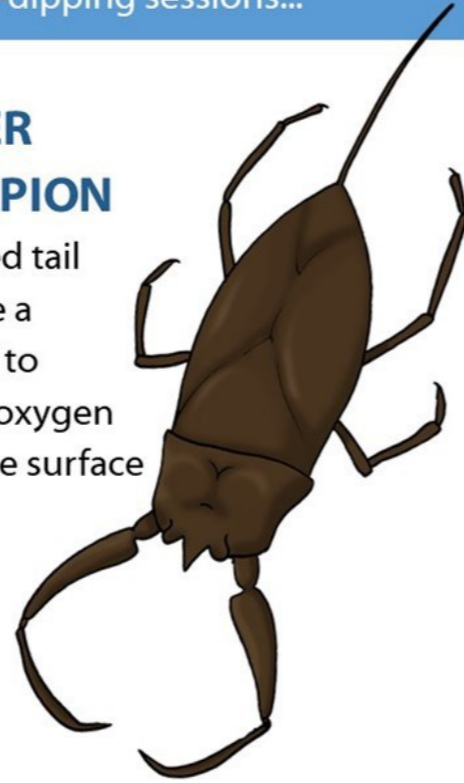
There are a staggering variety of invertebrate species found in our ponds, rivers and streams, here are just a selection that may help with pond-dipping sessions...

POND SKATER



WATER SCORPION

Modified tail acts like a snorkel to collect oxygen from the surface



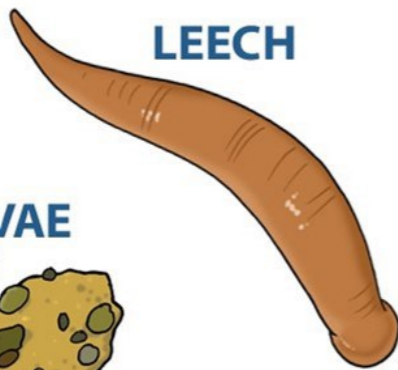
BACKSWIMMERS
AKA water boatmen



GREAT POND SNAIL

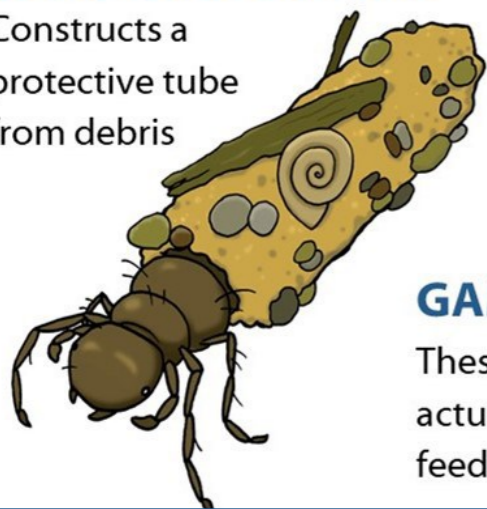


LEECH



CADDIS FLY LARVAE

Constructs a protective tube from debris



GAMMARUS

These water shrimp are actually crustaceans that feed on organic waste



DAPHNIA

(water flea) Microscopic creatures require magnification to view



RAMSHORN SNAIL

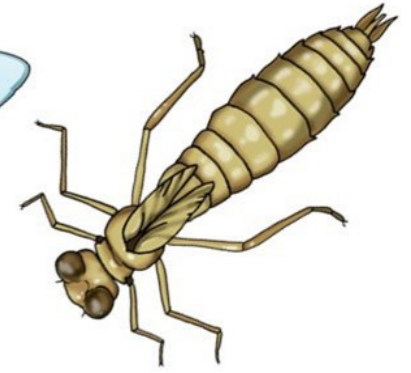


EMPEROR DRAGONFLY



DRAGONFLY NYMPH

The infant form of the dragonfly is an aquatic hunter



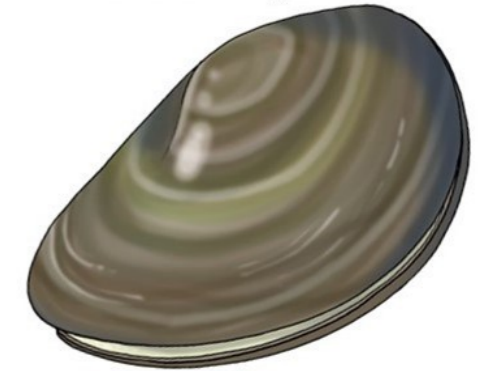
COPEPOD

(Cyclops) microscopic

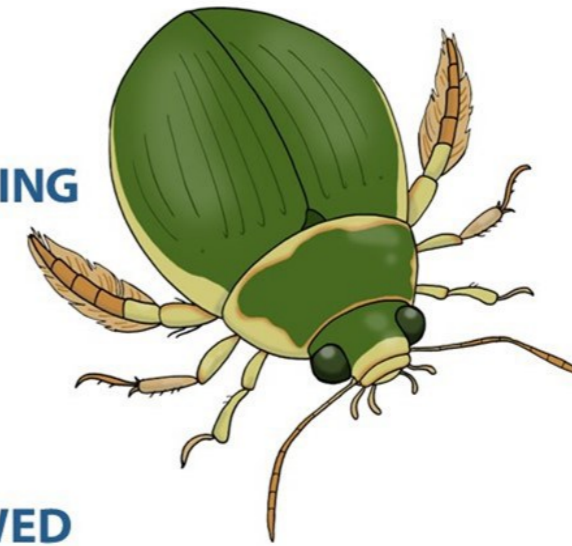


SWAN MUSSEL

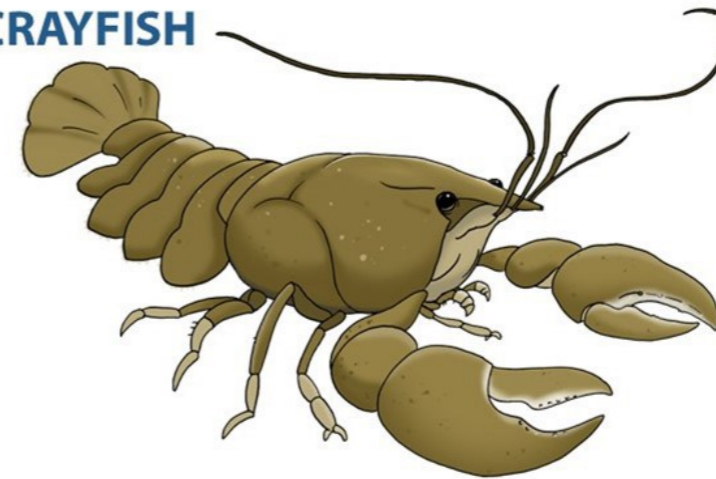
A freshwater bivalve with a hinged shell



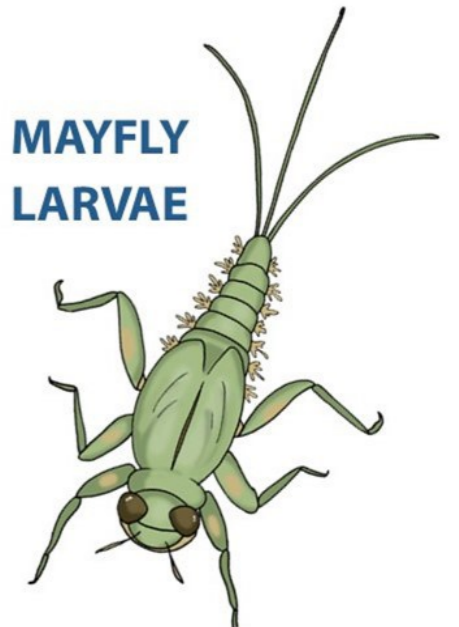
GREAT DIVING BEETLE



WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH



MAYFLY LARVAE



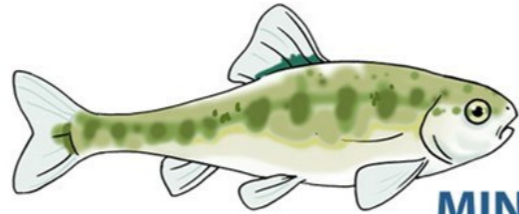
IDENTIFYING FRESHWATER FISH

In the right place at the right time, wild fish are observable from the waters edge. Careful use of fishing nets can be good in collecting small species or young fish.

If you are angling, ensure you have a valid fishing license (search online) and ensure that any fish are handled with care and returned to the water without delay.



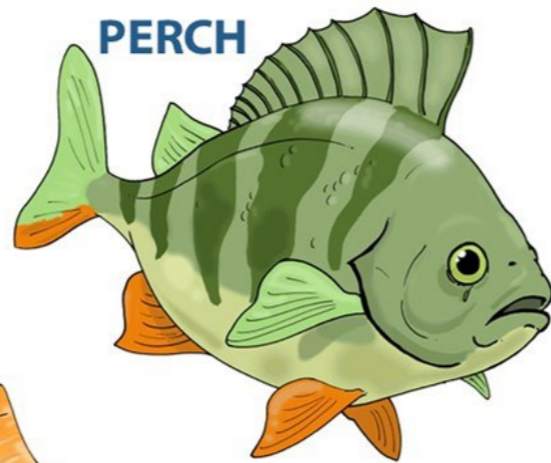
THREE-SPINED STICKLEBACK



MINNOW



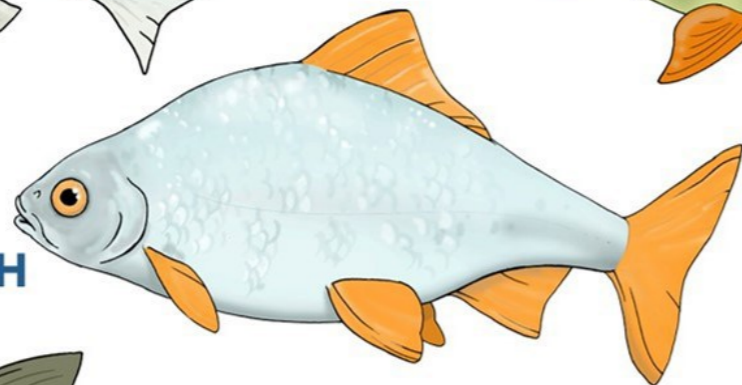
STONE LOACH



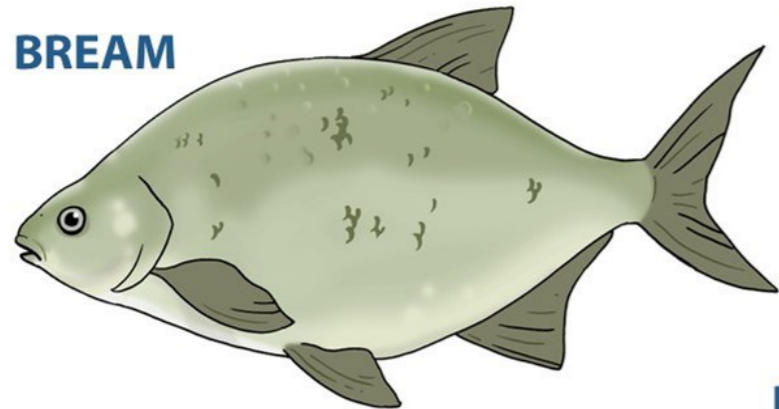
PERCH



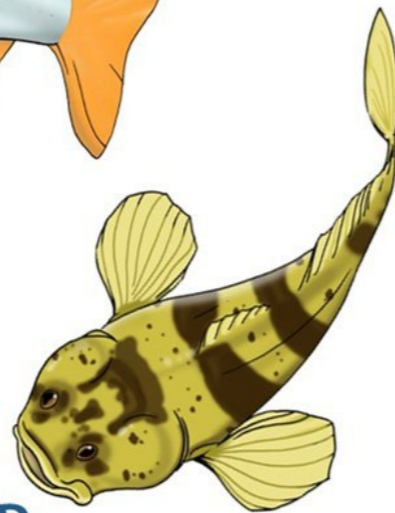
GUDGEON



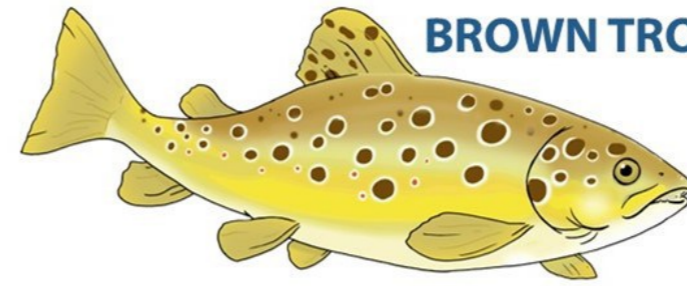
ROACH



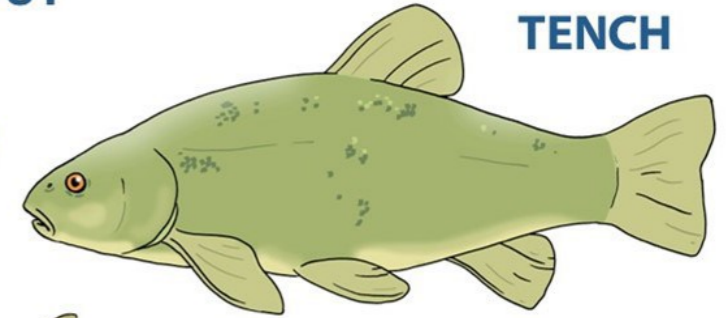
BREAM



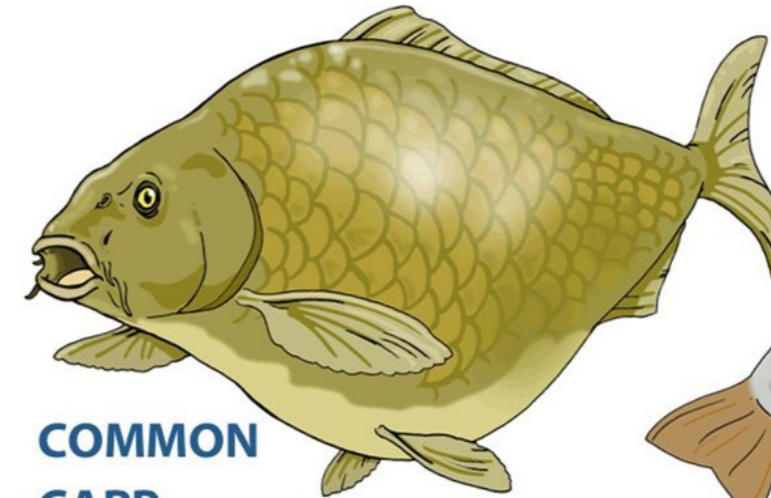
BULLHEAD



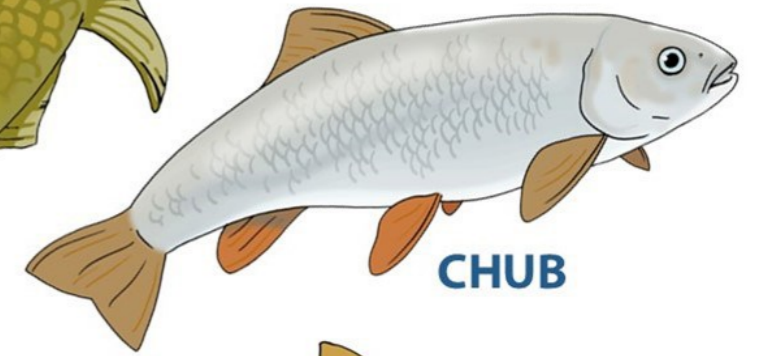
BROWN TROUT



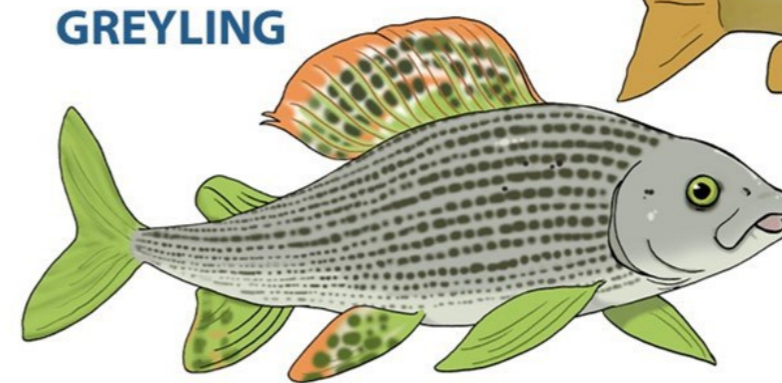
TENCH



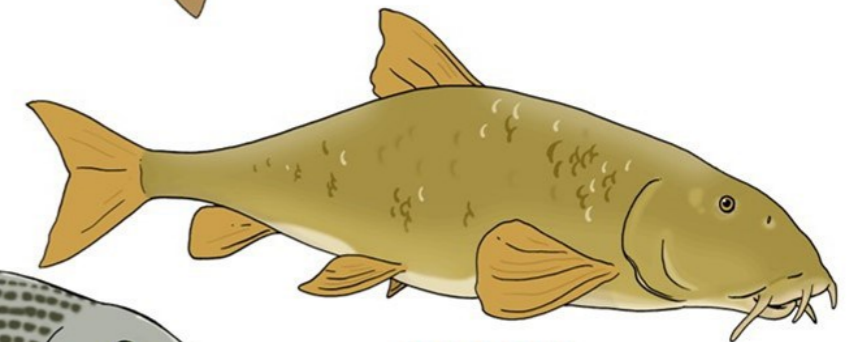
COMMON CARP



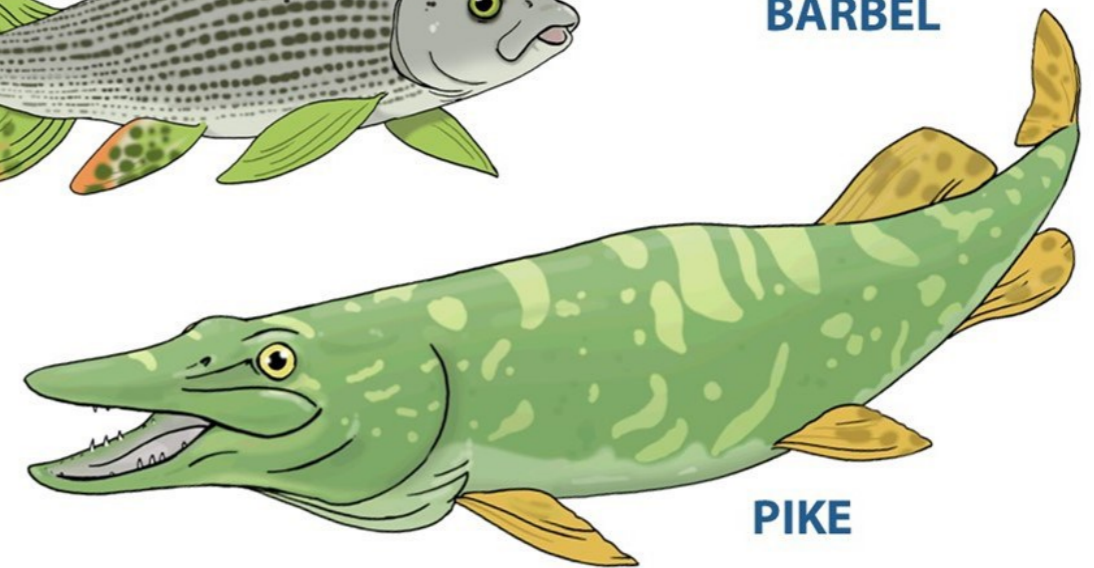
CHUB



GREYLING



BARBEL



PIKE

IDENTIFYING WATER MAMMALS

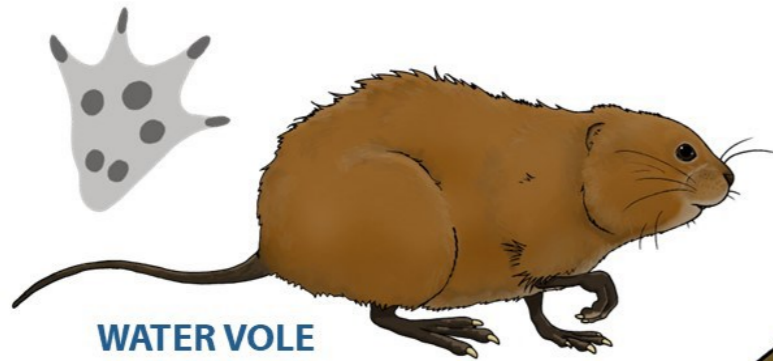
Some of our most elusive mammals are those found in our fresh waters. Whilst sharing the features of fur-covered bodies that insulate against the chill of what can be freezing waters, they range dramatically in size and lifestyle.

The **water vole** and **beaver** are both rodents and use their chisel-like teeth to cut the vegetation upon which they feed upon. Evidence of closely gnawed grass by the bank is as good an indicator of voles feeding as the distinctive stumps of trees, that reveal the activity of the, much larger, beaver.

Once hunted to extinction in the UK, beavers are now increasing in number due to reintroductions across the UK. Dam building helps to both reduce down-stream flooding and improves the biodiversity within their habitat.



EUROPEAN BEAVER



WATER VOLE

Despite a dramatic size difference, both the diminutive **water shrew** and much larger **otter**, are both agile, aquatic predators.

These mammals are hard to spot but will leave the water periodically, leaving **paw prints** in the soft mud (see examples by each).

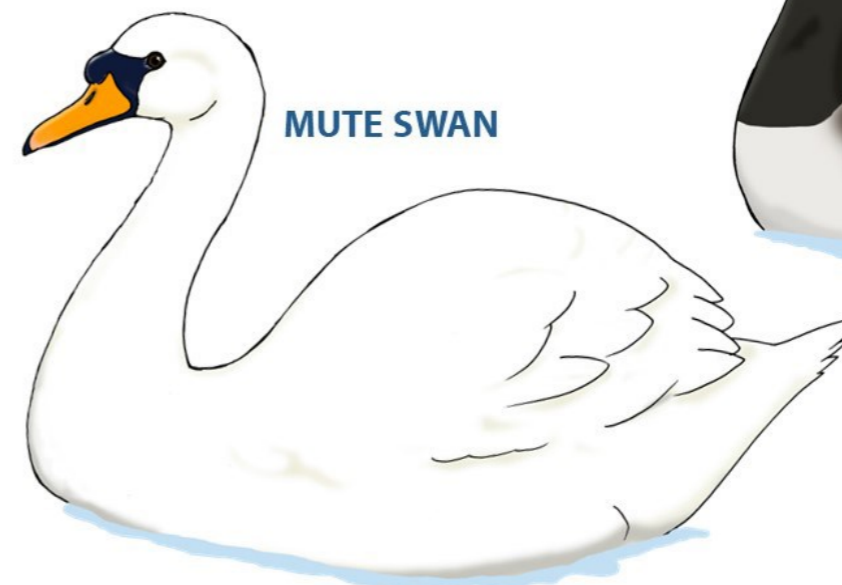
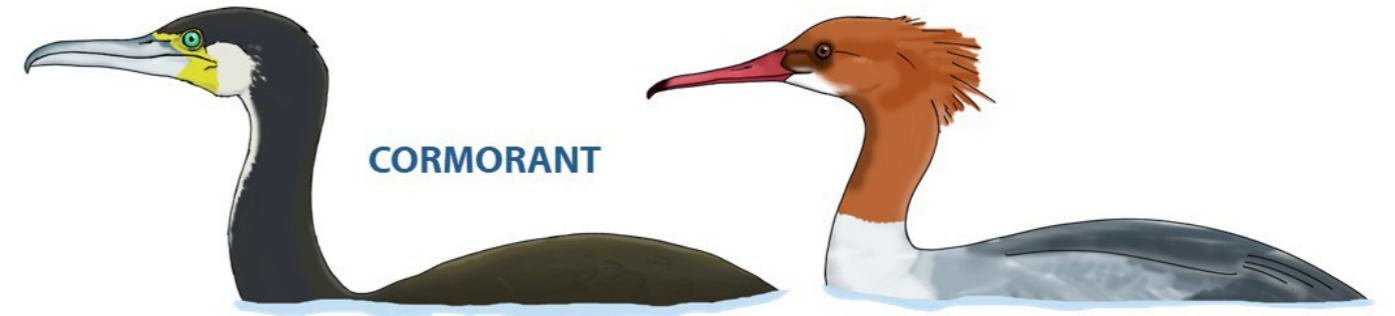
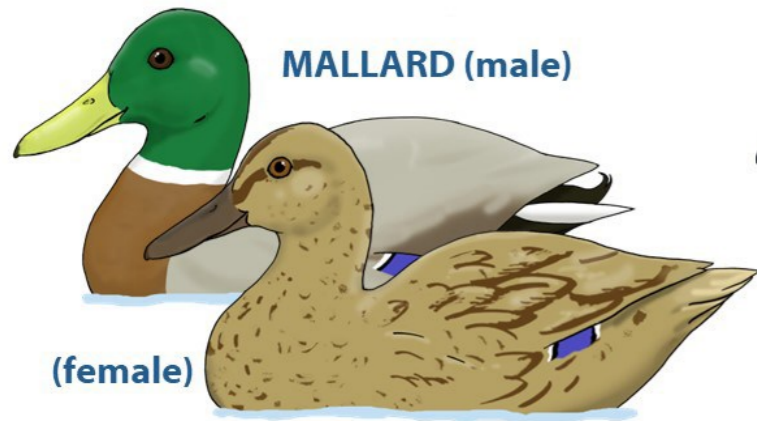


EUROPEAN OTTER



WATER SHREW

IDENTIFYING WATERBIRDS



BIRDS BESIDE THE WATER



MARSH TIT



BEARDED TIT



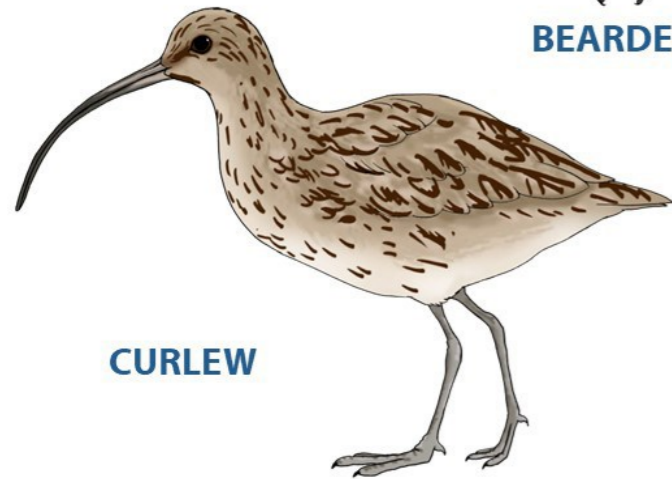
REED BUNTING



DIPPER



GREY WAGTAIL



CURLEW



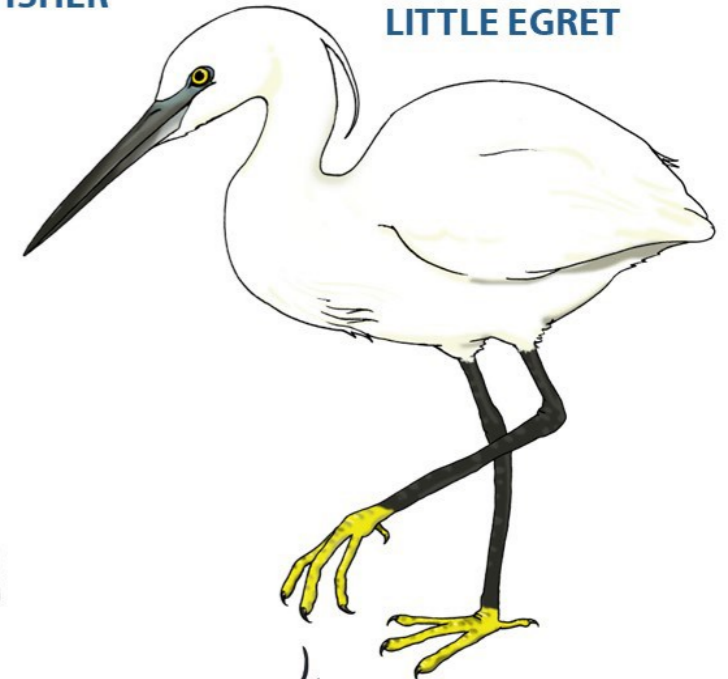
OYSTERCATCHER



KINGFISHER



GREY HERON



LITTLE EGRET



REDSHANK



WATER RAIL



MOORHEN



COOT



SNIPE



LAPWING