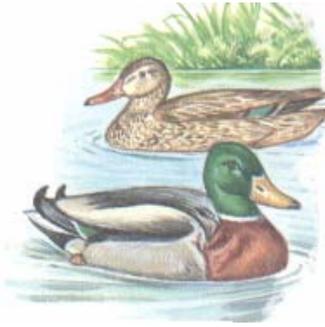


## Creatures living in and around Broomfield Pond.



Broomfield Pond is home to a variety of waterfowl.

The duck most likely to be seen is the **Mallard (left)**. The breeding male's green head distinguishes it from other waterfowl. The female is less colourful with a mostly brown plumage. Several pairs of domestic **White farm ducks** have made the pond their home.

You can sometimes find other domesticated ducks swimming on the pond and you may like to try and spot these more exotic birds amongst the other ducks.

Native species of waterfowl include the **Moorhen (right)** with its red forehead. This is a small rail not to be confused with its larger relation, the **Coot**, which has a white forehead.



The pond is home to a number of amphibians. The **Common Frog (left)** is one of them. The frogs gather in early spring to breed and lay their eggs. The tadpoles emerge from the frogspawn about two weeks later and reach maturity about three months after that. In mid-summer, tiny young froglets can be spotted around the edge of the pond as they hop

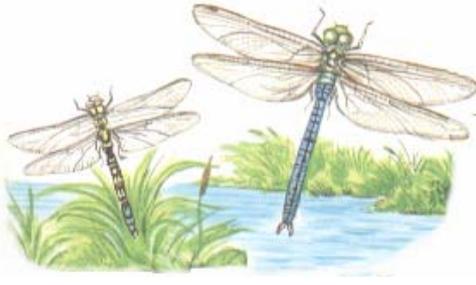
from the water seeking refuge in the bank side vegetation.

The **Common Toad** is not so likely to be spotted as it spends less time in the pond. Toads breed later than frogs and produce long strings of Toad spawn. Toads crawl with an ungainly walk whereas the frog hops.

Other amphibians are **Newts**. These come to the pond in early spring. The male newt (shown) has an orange belly, becomes covered with dark spots and grows a crest at this time. Females are a similar colour but without the crest. Newts leave the pond in the summer and hide under logs and stones. Newt tadpoles have feathery gills to allow them to breathe under water until they are ready to leave the pond in late summer. If you sit quietly, you may see a newt come to the surface to take a gulp of fresh air before it returns to the bottom again.

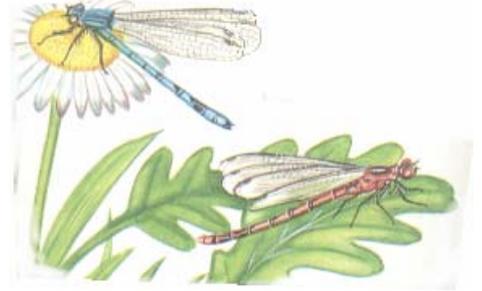


## The pond is home for many insects too.



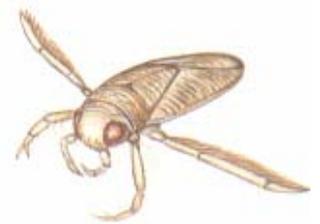
dragonfly. The females are green while the males are blue. The **Southern Hawker** is another slightly smaller dragonfly. Both species are shown. Dragonfly nymphs spend up to five years in the pond before they hatch into the adult fly.

**Damselflies** are often mistaken for dragonflies. These are smaller, more delicate and are weaker fliers. They are easy to distinguish when at rest as damselflies always fold their wings over their backs, whereas dragonflies hold them open. The nymph of a damselfly can spend up to a year in the pond.



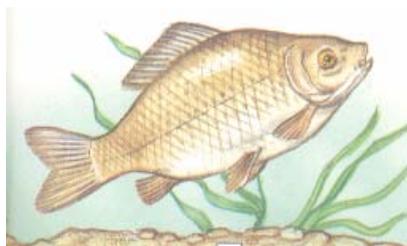
Other types of fly that frequent the pond include the **Mayfly** and the **Caddis fly**. Both of these have nymph stages that spend most of their lives in the pond whereas the adults live for only a few days.

Other insects include Pondskaters and Water Boatman. These are bugs. The **Pondskater** skims across the surface looking for insects that have fallen into the water. The **Water Boatman** (shown) spends most of its time under the water and feeds on microscopic algae. There are also **water beetles** of various types.



Around the edge of the pond, along the muddy banks, you may be lucky enough to spot a **Water Vole**. They can be seen swimming across the surface and are often heard as they plop into the water. These are sometimes mistaken for water rats but are smaller with a shorter tail. Voles are mainly vegetarian and will stock their burrows with seeds and water plants. **Hedgehogs** may be seen at dusk as they begin their night patrol for slugs and worms and pass by the green. You may also notice the molehills on the green too.

The pond has recently become home to a shoal of fish. Most of these are **Goldfish** that Unfortunately have probably been brought in from a garden pond elsewhere. Many are orange or yellow in colour but, if you look carefully, you should also see brown ones. These are goldfish that have kept their natural wild colouration and have not yet turned gold. Other fish in the pond have included a few **carp** and **orfe**.



**IT IS ILLEGAL TO INTRODUCE FOREIGN SPECIES INTO THE WILD!**