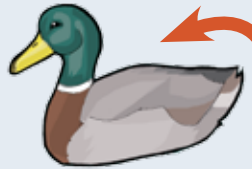


CORMORANT is a large water bird. Some say its long neck makes it look almost reptilian. **1 Point**



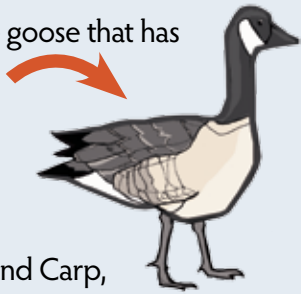
COOTS can be very territorial and will chase off intruders. **1 Point**

SWANS In June 1984 five swans were returned to the Medway by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Swans are now a common sight along the Medway. **1 Point**



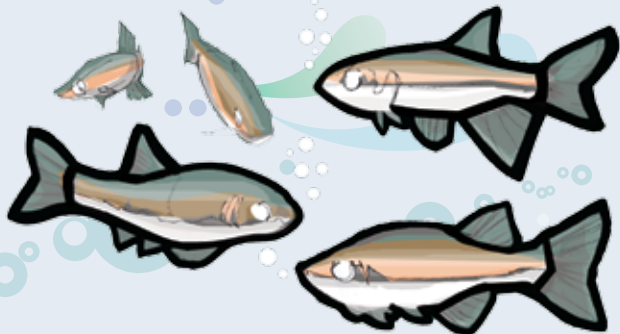
MALLARD Mallard is a common dabbling duck and is often seen upended! **1 Point**

CANADA GOOSE A large goose that has a noisy ker-honk call. **1 Point**



MINNOWS Minnows can sometimes be seen by the water's edge. Many other species of fish, such as Pike and Carp, can be found in the deeper water.

1 Point



My record

Name _____

Age _____

Animal	Points	Date spotted	Where
Water Vole	4		
Otter	3		
Grass Snake	3		
Common Tern	3		
American Mink	3		
Barn Owl	3		
Kingfisher	2		
Dragonfly	2		
Heron	2		
Moorhen	2		
Bats	2		
Damselflies	2		
Cormorant	1		
Coot	1		
Swans	1		
Mallard	1		
Canada Goose	1		
Minnows	1		

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership work to enhance and encourage enjoyment of the countryside in the boroughs of Maidstone and Tonbridge. To find out more about the Partnership visit www.medwayvalley.org or call 01622 683695.

The Riverside Communities Project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund has been using art, events, interpretation

and events to explore and celebrate the River Medway and its heritage. Follow the links at the partnership website to find out more.

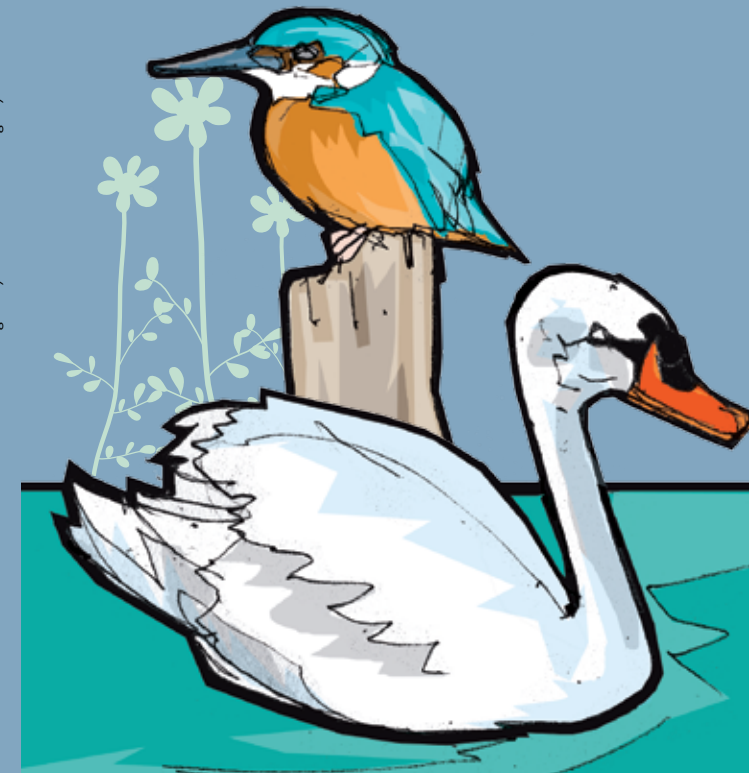
Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre collect and records information on wildlife in Kent. They would be interested in any wildlife you have spotted by the river. Visit www.kmbrc.org.uk

Supported by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund



Wildlife Spotter Guide

TOP 18 CREATURES ALONG THE RIVER MEDWAY



Designed by Wonderful Creative Agency www.bewonderful.co.uk

Spot these animals!

This spotters' guide gives an idea of some of the creatures you can find in and by the Medway, from Maidstone to Tonbridge. This section of the river is known as a navigation and the water level is maintained by weirs and sluices so you can travel along by boat at all times. This creates a different environment to the tidal section of the River Medway and attracts different wildlife. Take a boat trip, walk along the banks or sit by the water's edge to see how many different things you can spot. Keep a record of the different creatures you have seen and see how many points you can collect, the most common only have one point, whilst those that are harder to spot are worth more.

WATER VOLES are often confused with rats and are one of the UK's most endangered species.

4 Points



OTTERS can hold their breath for up to 8 minutes while they dive for food. 3 Points



GRASS SNAKES spend more time in water than on land and are often seen in the Medway.

3 Points

COMMON TERN

can be spotted on the Medway in the summer having flown here from South and West Africa.

3 Points



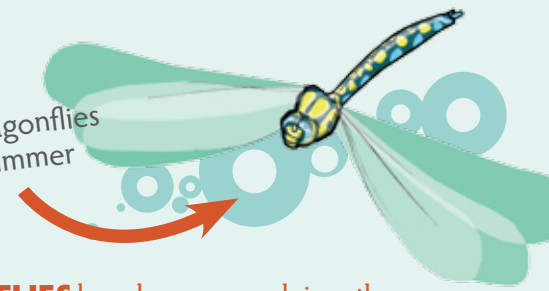
AMERICAN MINK

American Mink have been breeding in the UK since the 1950s. Mink and Otters are often confused with each other, but Mink are smaller, nearly the size of a domestic cat while Otters are larger, closer to the size of a medium dog. 3 Points



BARN OWLS can be spotted in the evening along the field edges by the River Medway. They make a variety of shrieks, hisses and snoring sounds (often mistaken for ghosts), but they don't hoot. 3 Points

Spot dragonflies in the summer



DRAGONFLIES have been around since the dinosaurs and can fly at speeds of up to 30mph. 2 Points



KINGFISHERS may be seen as a flash of blue as they dart by.

2 Points

HERONS are often seen standing motionless by the water's edge. 2 Points



MOORHENS have long, green toes that help them to swim and walk on floating plants.

2 Points

BATS can eat 3,000 midges in one night - so a good pest control, they will often be seen flying along the river searching for food. You would be most likely to see Pipistrelles and Daubentons.

2 Points



DAMSELFLIES are daintier than the dragonfly and hold their wings together whilst the dragonflies hold them open.

2 Points