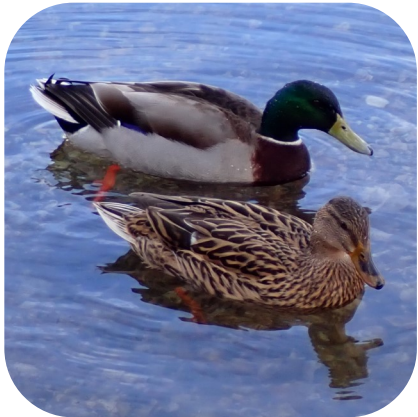


# Chalk Stream Challenge: Animal Spotter Sheet



**Mallard**



**Moorhen**



**Mayfly**



**Banded demoiselle**



**Caddisfly**



**Kingfisher**



**Water vole**



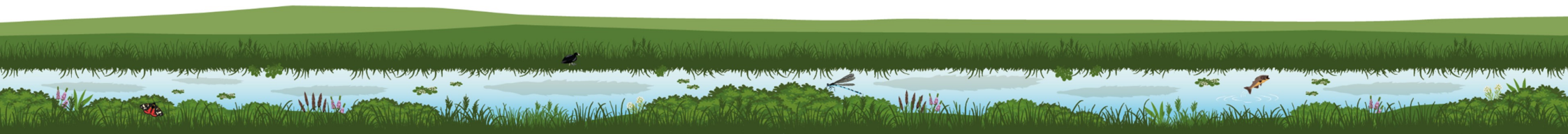
**Bullhead**



**Grayling**



**Brown trout**



Top row from left to right

**Mallard:** This duck is found on all our chalk streams. It eats berries, acorns, plants, and water insects. Its webbed feet help it to swim well and to walk on muddy ground. It likes to nest in places that are near open water but hidden by vegetation.

**Moorhen:** This bird is not a duck but a member of the rail family. It has very big feet with long toes, which helps it to walk on muddy ground. It eats water plants and small water creatures.

**Mayfly:** There are over 3,000 species of mayfly around the world. These insects evolved over millions of years, starting in the Carboniferous period when gigantic dinosaurs also existed. Mayfly eggs hatch into nymphs that live in water; they have long bodies and three pairs of legs. They are sensitive to pollution, and because they are an important food source, other animals can go hungry if mayfly numbers decrease.

**Banded damselfly:** This insect is one of only two damselfly species that have coloured wings. It is usually found near slow-moving water. It is threatened by water pollution, overshading from trees, and the removal of bankside plants. Both the nymphs and the adults are eaten by fish and water birds.

**Caddisfly:** There are many types of caddisfly, but they all live in streams, rivers, and pools. Female caddisflies stick their eggs to submerged plants or stones, and when the young hatch they float up to dry their wings above the surface. Caddisflies are a favourite food of brown trout, so are popular with fly fishermen!

Bottom row from left to right

**Kingfisher:** This bright bird sits on low branches before diving in to catch food. It nests by burrowing into the stream banks, so it can be affected by floods in wet winters. Because it eats small fish and aquatic insects, it is threatened by pollution that kills these animals, like fertilisers, pesticides, and things like petrol and tyre dust from nearby roads.

**Water vole:** This mammal has flat, round ears and a blunt muzzle (unlike the brown rat) and can reach 20 centimetres long. It is active during the day and mainly eats grass, reeds, and water plants. It lives in holes in the stream bank. It is eaten by otters, pike, and herons.

**American mink:** This mammal is a non-native species that is invasive, which means that it harms our ecosystems. It preys on water voles and has caused them to disappear completely from some chalk streams.

**Bullhead:** This fish has a large head and can reach 15 centimetres long. It is also known as “miller’s thumb” and “tommy logge”. Its mottled body is well camouflaged against the stream bed. It likes cool water with gravel beds, such as chalk streams. It eats insects, including mayfly and caddisfly nymphs. It is eaten by otters and kingfishers.

**Grayling:** This fish is found all over Europe. It likes cold, clear, running water, so our chalk streams are ideal. It is easily identified by the reddish tip on its fin. It eats water plants and insects, and is eaten by otters.

**Brown trout:** This is the most famous chalk stream fish. It thrives in streams that have gravel beds and clear water. It eats freshwater shrimp and insects. Fishermen use artificial flies on their hooks to attract it.

