

TOP PICKS

Best spots to visit

See the best of our wetland wildlife

Use the numbers with the map overleaf

1 We have ducks, geese and swans from around the world

To see our collection head to wetlands of the world.

Look for nearby ID signs showing you what is living in each area, where they come from and more about their conservation.

Amongst them look out for our wild birds, such as tufted ducks, coots and moorhens.



2 See our Asian short-clawed otters

Best time to visit is 11.15am or 2.15pm, directly after feeding when it is less busy.

If they are not out on the water, look for them on the bank and logs, or inside where they sleep.



3 In the spring and summer months visit our wader scrape hide

From here watch sand martins flying to their nest holes.

Sand martins are small swallow-like birds which arrive in March from West Africa. They nest in groups or colonies in sandy burrows.



Can you see the holes they make in the bank? Our artificial sand bank has holes ready made for them.



Why might sand martins nest in holes?

4 To get a bird's eye panoramic view across the reserve visit the observatory

From here you can see the vast lake and marsh with central London in the background.

Best done in small groups or single classes.

You will get a sense of the geography of the site.

What can you see from here? Can you see any familiar landmarks?



5 To learn about other wetland wildlife visit our discovery centre

There are lots of interesting things to do and learn here.

While you're here please help your children and young people respect our staff, wildlife and the places where they are living.

Make sure you all stay together.

Supervise students at all times and follow instructions given by our WWT staff.



6 If you have pre-booked pond dipping, the pond zone is the place to explore our ponds and discover amazing underwater life.

7 Burn off some extra energy in the explore adventure area (pre-bookings only).

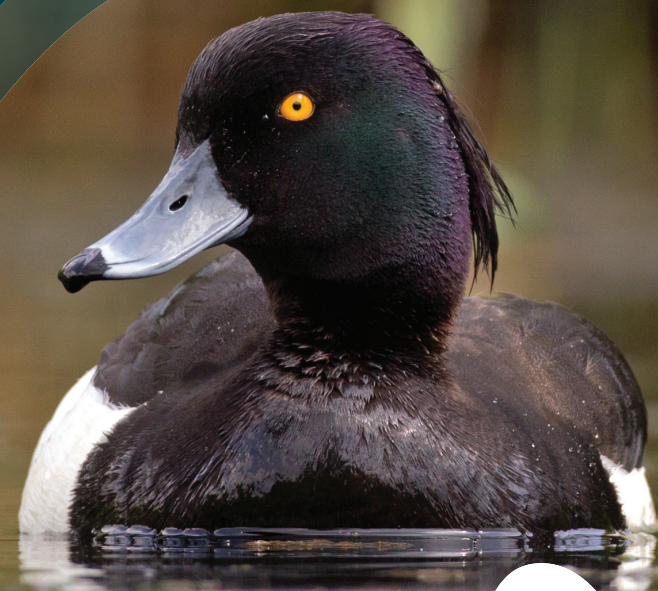


wwt.org.uk/learningzone

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MAP AND GUIDE

For schools and learning groups



London
Wetland Centre

EXPLORE OUR WETLANDS



Answers to questions pupils love to ask

How many birds do you have?

We have around 190 birds of 36 species in our living collection. Thousands of wild ducks, geese and gulls visit, particularly during the winter.

What do ducks eat?

Ducks eat a variety of different foods here at the London Wetland Centre. Some eat plants while others eat small animals such as fish, or insects living at the bottom of a pond.

Can we stroke the birds or otters?

Sadly, no. Stroking them can damage their feathers and remove the waterproof coating. The otters, while they look cute and cuddly, don't like to be stroked and have sharp teeth that could give a nasty bite.

How long can a diving duck hold its breath? How deep can they dive?

A diving duck such as a tufted duck will stay underwater for 15–25 seconds, depending on the depth of the water. Some ducks like the long-tailed duck can dive up to 60 metres (197 feet). **Why don't you time them?**

Where have the birds come from?

Our collection of birds have come from all around the world. Our wild birds come both from across the UK and further afield. For example, black-headed gulls visit from Poland, tufted ducks from Russia and reed warblers from West Africa.