

TOP PICKS

Best spots to visit

See the best of our wetland wildlife

Use the numbers with the map overleaf

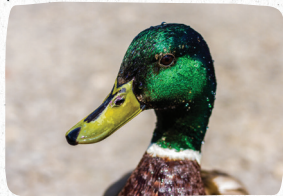
1 Observe the birds

How many different species of birds can you spot?

Which is the smallest and largest bird you can see?

How many different feather colours can you count?

Many ducks, geese and swans will tip up and reach under the water for food. Can you spot any birds with their bottoms in the air?



2 See our otter family

They can be active at any time of day but they also like to nap.

If you don't see them while you are there in the morning, they will probably be out in the afternoon.



3 We have two types of flamingo here at Martin Mere

See our greater and Chilean flamingos.

The greater flamingos are pale pink and can be found in the ponds just outside the centre.



Our Chilean flamingos are in their own area just beyond the otters. They are a deeper red and pink colour. Compare their leg colour with the greater flamingos.



Some of our greater flamingos are over 40 years old!

4 To spot some of our wild birds, visit our Discovery hide

From here you can see a mix of wild ducks, geese, swans and wading birds.

During the winter, look out of the large, low windows to see thousands of wintering birds here including tufted ducks, wigeon, pintail, teal, shelducks, greylag geese and whooper swans.



During the quieter summer months, what can you see and identify?



5 Immerse your group in a wild place, visit Wild walk – welly boots needed

Walk through different watery habitats where you can:

Meander through the muddy meadow – what else is living in there?

Wander in the wet woods – listen for small birds in the trees above.

Get lost in a reedy ramble spotting wildlife and giant sculptures.



6 If you have booked the Pond

zone, this is the place to explore our ponds and discover real and amazing underwater life.

7 To burn off extra energy and get physical, visit our Adventure play area and Den building area.



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MAP AND GUIDE

For schools and learning groups



Martin Mere
Wetland Centre

EXPLORE OUR WETLANDS



Answers to questions pupils love to ask

How many birds do you have?

We have 70 species in the living collection, including 16 species of geese, four species of swans, two species of flamingos, two species of cranes and one species of stork. On the reserve we have over 150 species of wild birds throughout the year.

We count the wild birds, so we know that we can have up to 45,000 pink-footed geese (peak numbers in October and November) and up to 2,500 whooper swans each winter.

Where do whooper swans come from?

They travel here from Iceland.

Where do pink-footed geese come from?

They travel here from eastern Greenland, Iceland and Spitsbergen, where polar bears live.

Why do swans and geese travel to places such as Iceland when they could stay here to be well fed and warmer?

They travel so far north in the summer as there is 24 hours' daylight there and little competition with other waterbirds. Their young are able to feast on vegetation and insects, growing very quickly, before flying as a family to Martin Mere.

Why are flamingos pink?

Flamingos eat shrimps that contain pink chemicals which turn their feathers pink. They use the colour to display and show off to each other.

