

Pond Life

One of the reasons wetlands are so important is that many types of wildlife require them to complete their life-cycles. What animals can you find growing up in and around a pond?



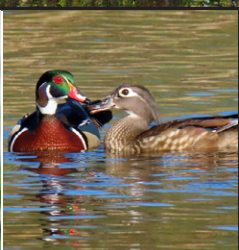
Dragonfly

Dragonflies are flying insects that hold their wings horizontally. They hunt on the wing using their acute eyesight. Their eggs are laid in water where they hatch into nymphs. When a nymph is ready to become an adult, it leaves the water and clings to a vertical surface. The larval skin splits and it emerges as an adult.



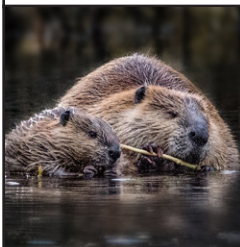
Wood Duck

Unlike most other ducks, wood ducks have sharp claws for perching in trees. These ducks nest in cavities (and nesting boxes) in trees close to water. The elevation provides some protection from predators. After hatching, the ducklings climb out of the nest cavity, jump from the tree and make their way to water.



Pacific Chorus Frog

These frogs lay their eggs in shallow water where they hatch into tadpoles. Over the next few months metamorphosis occurs and they grow limbs, absorb their tail, exchange their gills for lungs and emerge from the pond. As adults, they live in the surrounding vegetation hunting insects and other arthropods.



Beaver

Beavers are semi-aquatic rodents with flat, paddle-shaped tails and large, webbed hind feet. They construct their homes (lodges) out of sticks, twigs, rocks, and mud in lakes, streams, and ponds. Here they raise their offspring, store food over the winter, and take shelter from predators and the elements.



Mosquito

Mosquito eggs are laid on the surface of water and hatch into aquatic larvae. The larvae spend their time suspended at the surface, feeding on microbes. They breathe through a siphon located at the rear of their body. After they pupate, they will emerge from the water as adults and fly off to find a mate.



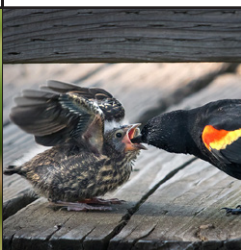
Caddisfly

The aquatic larvae of many species of caddisfly construct silken tubes around themselves for protection. Depending on the preference of the species, the tube may be covered with materials such as sand, small stones, tree needles, or other debris. After they pupate, they will emerge from the water as winged adults.



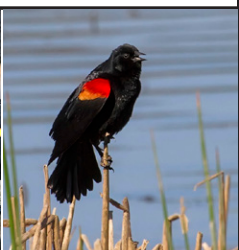
Damselfly

Damselflies have a similar body plan to dragonflies but are more delicate and fold their wings back when at rest. They lay their eggs on aquatic plants where they hatch into nymphs. When fully developed, the nymph climbs out of the water and clings to a vertical surface. Its skin splits open and the adult form emerges.



Red-winged Blackbird

The song of the red-winged blackbird is a common melody in wetland areas. The males can often be seen displaying their bright red and yellow wing plumage while perched on a tall cattail. They nest in loose colonies amongst the reeds and grasses at the water's edge. Their diet consists mainly of seeds and insects.



Salamander

Many salamanders begin their lives in water after hatching from eggs. In their aquatic larval form they have feathery external gills. Over time they develop legs but unlike frog tadpoles, salamanders retain their tails. They emerge from the water as adults and remain in moist habitats in the surrounding area.



Pond Plants

Ponds are home to plants specialized to live in a wet environment.
What plants can you find growing in, on, and around a pond?



Common Hornwort
Ceratophyllum demersum



Water Smartweed
Persicaria amphibia



Arumleaf Arrowhead
Sagittaria cuneata



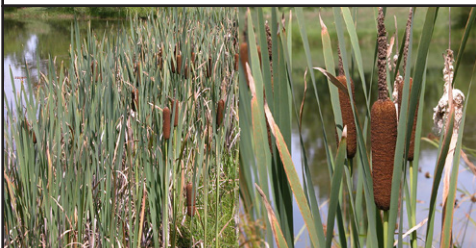
Yellow Pond-Lily
Nuphar polysepalum



Common Duckweed
Lemna minor



Buckbean
Menyanthes trifoliata



Cattail
Typha latifolia



Beaked Sedge
Carex rostrata



Pacific Willow
Salix lucida