

BIRDS, AMPHIBIANS AND SMALL MAMMALS *of marsh and Umbrian countryside*



1 - European Golden Plover

The European golden plover is a migratory bird with a melodious song. It is easily recognizable by the beautiful dark livery spotted with golden-yellow on its back



2- Edible Frog (*Rana esculenta*)

On hot summer nights, one can hear the croaking call of edible frog males while they are sitting on leaves or submerged in water. Thanks to their colour they blend perfectly with the aquatic vegetation in which they live.



3- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

A very skilled diver, the common pochard is able to dive to a depth of up to two and a half meters. It can stay submerged looking for food, e.g. worms, insects and small molluscs for up to 25 seconds!



4 - Black-Tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Anyone who dares to approach its nest and baby chicks, that are usually found in tall grass, is in big trouble: the black-tailed godwit defends itself with great determination, flying over intruders at low altitude and producing loud and piercing sounds!

5- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

The red knot usually nests in the arctic regions and when winter comes it moves to southern Europe making very few stops along the way. In summer, its chest and belly are rust-coloured, and in winter it is grey all over.



6- Green Toad (*Bufo virosis*)

The green toad produces a particular trill, similar to the call of a cricket. The sound is produced by male toads during warm spring nights. In this season the green toad, that usually lives on land, approaches the water to reproduce



7- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

The little egret uses a particular technique to hunt in the shallow waters: it tracks down its prey by vibrating the mud with its feet and then chases and grabs it with sharp blows of the beak.



8 - Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

When walking or swimming, the moorhen keeps its tail up, making it snap continuously which highlights the white of the undertail. The moorhen never moves alone, but always travels in a group..



9 - Curlew (*Numerius arquata*)

The curlew is among waders the one that sings the most: it is often possible to hear the calls of the curlew as it defends the territories where it finds food, including crabs which the curlew hunts down using its sight and swallows as a whole.



10- Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

With its awkward and unusual call, probably the most unusual in the world of birds, the water rail can defend its territory even while remaining well hidden amongst thick reeds.

11 - Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

A blue spot that flies over the water and a quick flap of wings: the kingfisher dives from the branches, in which it is perched, to catch its fish and swallow it tail-first.



12 - Fire Salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*)

During the day the fire salamander only comes out when it rains. Towards evening it sets off to hunt for prey which move slowly: worms and snails are among its favourite foods. It has a very long life, it can live even up to twenty years!

13- Black-Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

It is the only nocturnal heron. During the day the black-crowned night heron lives hidden in trees or bushes and only at sunset it starts hunting for food, mainly fish, frogs and insects, in the shallow waters.



14 - Black-Crowned Night Heron (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Tail up and head in the water: turned upside down in this funny position, the mallard usually uses its beak to sift its food from the bottom of shallow water.



16 - Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

The hare is a very shy animal, and the only way to protect itself from enemies is by escaping. With skilful moves, it manages to mislead its pursuers and vanish without leaving any trace. The hare can reach maximum speeds of 70 km per hour.



15. European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

The European honey buzzard feeds mainly on hornets, spiders and snakes, but above all it is hungry for larvae, bees and wasps that the honey buzzard captures thanks to the dense plumage that protects it from their bites.



Regione Umbria

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