# [Moorhen](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/moorhen/" \o "Moorhen):

The moorhen is a generally small-sized [bird](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) that is commonly found near large bodies of water such as marshes, ponds and streams. The moorhen is most commonly known for its small black-feathered body and (often) red, pointed beak.

There are seven different [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of moorhen that are found all over the world today from the dusky moorhen of [Australia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/oceania/australia/) to the lesser moorhen of [Africa](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/), and the spot-flanked moorhen of South America. The common moorhen is found throughout the world but does not occur in the [polar regions](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/polar-regions/) or in tropical rainforests.

Moorhens spend their life on the water and have a number of adaptations including webbed-toes which aids the moorhen in both swimming and walking about on the slippery banks that line the water's edge. Moorhens are very sociable [birds](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) and spends their lives with other moorhens in a [group](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group) known as a flock.

Moorhens are omnivorous [birds](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) and have [diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/diet/) that primarily consists of small [invertebrates](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-invertebrate) such as [insects](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/insect/) and water-spiders. Moorhens also eat larger [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) such as small rodents and [lizards](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/lizard/)and also pick at plants including berries, fruits and seeds.

Due to its relatively small [size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size), the moorhen generally has a number of [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) but this varies depending on the area in which the moorhen lives. Canines including foxes, [dogs](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/dog/), [coyotes](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/coyote/), [raccoons](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/raccoon/) and [dingos](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/dingo/) are the main [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) of the moorhen along with large [reptiles](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-reptile) and wildcats.

Female moorhens begin to build themselves a nest on the ground in which to lay their eggs, in early spring. The female moorhen then lays an average of 7 eggs although the exact number is dependant on the [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species). The moorhen chicks hatch out of the eggs after just a few weeks, and both the mother and father moorhens helps to incubate the eggs and feed the chicks.

Despite their [environment](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-environment) being drastically altered by [habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat) loss and pollution, the common moorhen have proved to be a very hardy [bird](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) as it stills thrives in most areas. Other moorhen [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) however are sadly listed as either [vulnerable](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/vulnerable/) or [endangered](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/).

# Moorhen Facts:

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| [**Kingdom**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-kingdom)**:** | Animalia |
| [**Phylum**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-phylum)**:** | Chordata |
| [**Class**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-class)**:** | Aves |
| [**Order**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order)**:** | Gruiformes |
| [**Family**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family)**:** | Rallidae |
| [**Genus**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus)**:** | Gallinula |
|  | |
| [**Scientific Name**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name)**:** | Gallinula |
| [**Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type)**:** | Bird |
| [**Diet**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet)**:** | Omnivore |
| [**Size (L)**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size)**:** | 25cm - 38cm (10in - 15in) |
| [**Wingspan**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-wingspan)**:** | 50cm - 80cm (20in - 31in) |
| [**Weight**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight)**:** | 70g - 400g (2.5oz - 14oz) |
| [**Top Speed**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-top-speed)**:** | 35km/h (22mph) |
| [**Lifespan**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan)**:** | 1 - 3 years |
| [**Lifestyle**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle)**:** | Flock |
| [**Conservation Status**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status)**:** | Least Concern |
|  | |
| [**Colour**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour)**:** | Black, White, Brown |
| [**Skin Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-skin-type)**:** | Feathers |
| [**Favourite Food**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-favourite-food)**:** | Insects |
| [**Habitat**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat)**:** | Marshes, wetlands and ponds |
| [**Average Clutch Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-clutch-size)**:** | 7 |
| [**Main Prey**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey)**:** | Insects, Rodents, Berries |
| [**Predators**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators)**:** | Foxes, Dogs, Raccoons |
| [**Distinctive Features**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features)**:** | Small rounded head and pointed beak |