



Mosquito Predators

TEACHER'S COPY

Some mosquito predators capture **adult mosquitoes** from the air



Bats



Insectivorous Birds
(especially swallows and flycatchers)

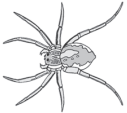


Dragonflies



Damselflies

Other mosquito predators hunt for mosquito **larvae** and **pupae** on the surface of the water, below the surface, or crawl underwater along rocks, sticks, or plants waiting for prey.



Surface Hunting Spiders



Mosquitofish
(surface feeders)



Dragonfly Naiads
(underwater crawlers)



Predaceous Diving Beetles



Backswimmers

Draw each predator where it would hunt for mosquitoes in this pond habitat.

The physical structures or behaviors of mosquito predators limits their ability to hunt and eat mosquitoes at particular stages of the mosquito life cycle. Aerial predators (bats, birds, flying predatory insects) are generally limited to hunting the adult stage of mosquitoes. Aquatic predators (fish, predatory aquatic arthropods) are generally limited to eating aquatic stages (eggs, larvae, pupae) of mosquitoes.

Note: Not all mosquito predators are shown on this worksheet.



The aerial predators (bird, dragonfly, damselfly, bat) should be drawn anywhere in the airspace above the pond.

Students need to draw the surface hunting spider on the surface of the water.

Mosquitofish should be drawn near the surface of the water.

Backswimmers and predaceous diving beetles should be drawn somewhere in the water column.

Dragonfly naiads should be drawn crawling on underwater sticks, rocks or vegetation.

Grade 3 Life Sciences

"Adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival."

Grade 4 Life Sciences

"Living organisms depend on their environment for survival."