

# Pond skater

**Latin name:** *Gerris lacustris*



**Feeds on:** Insects that have fallen onto the water's surface.

**Is eaten by:** Fish and birds. Water mite larvae can attach to their legs.

**Size:** Up to 20mm

**Habitat:** Pond surface

**Oxygen adaptation:** They live on the surface and so breathe air.

**Did you know?** Pond skaters are the most widespread British insect. They use their short front legs to catch prey, their middle legs to move them forwards and their back legs to steer. They have sensitive hairs that help spread their weight to stop them sinking and let them detect vibrations in the water. They can jump to avoid predators. In the autumn they leave their pond to hibernate in sheltered places like sheds.