

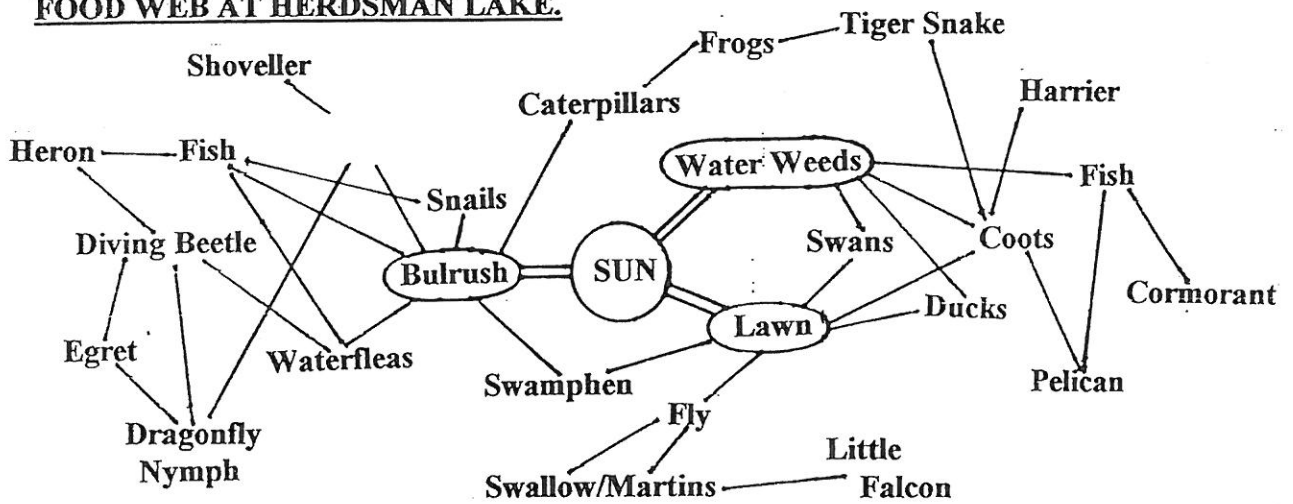
FOOD WEB

HERDSMAN LAKE

Roughly speaking, for every 1kg of meat eating animals in an ecosystem, there will be 1000kg of plant material. Many animals have short life cycles, (bacteria, Mayflies) while others have long life cycles (tortoise, Black Swan). Plants in the ecosystem have to vary - from short lived floating algae, to 100 year old Flooded Gums. Each develops its own "seed" producing techniques, from wind pollinated and wind seed-distributed Bulrush, to insect/bird pollinated, water distributed seeds of the Paperbark.

At Herdsmen Lake, the Bulrush dies and underwater is eaten by snails, boatman, scuds, waterfleas and Goby fish. These (in turn) are eaten by beetles, worms, dragonfly nymphs, water tigers, which (in turn) are eaten by Ibis, Grebes, Stilts and cormorants. Coots, swans, ducks and swamphens are vegetarians, eating suitable plants available during the year. Meat eating animals often outnumber the plant eaters in the number of different TYPES. For example some wade, some swim, some dive, some fly, some walk and some are nocturnal. However, their numbers are always low.

FOOD WEB AT HERDSMAN LAKE.



FRESHWATER FOOD CHAINS

