



Marwell
Wildlife

KS3 Greater flamingo webcam
behaviour study

Flamingo behaviour

Flamingos live in highly social groups and display a multitude of different behaviours, some more complex than others. Behaviour in this sense means anything that the flamingo is doing, actively or not. This would include anything from fighting, to resting, eating or looking around for danger (being vigilant).

These descriptions of behaviours are known as a **behavioural ethogram**. Below is the start of an ethogram for just some of the behaviours that you might see on the webcams, If you see other behaviours don't forget to add them to the list, providing a name for the behaviour and describing the animal when displaying this behaviour. This helps to make sure we are consistent with our observations.

We have 30 greater flamingos at Marwell Zoo, use the instructions and the webcam link on the next page to observe our flamingos- **can you see them displaying any of the behaviours below?**

Greater flamingo ethogram

Behaviour: Resting/sleeping. **Description:** Stood on one leg, with their head resting on their back or sitting with both legs tucked under their body.

Behaviour: Standing. **Description:** The flamingo is inactive but is not resting or being vigilant (vigilant: stood straight with neck extended to look around, often more than one flamingo is vigilant at once as they are reacting to a disturbance)

Behaviour: Locomotion. **Description:** Walking, running, attempting to fly (swimming would be included here if the pond were in the webcam frame).

Behaviour: Egg incubation. **Description:** The flamingo is sat on top of their nest (made of mud and sand; a mound on the ground). Males and females share the responsibility of incubation, you may see that there is an egg on the nest when they swap (this may happen anywhere from once per hour or 24 hours).

Behaviour: Preening. **Description:** The flamingo runs its beak through its feathers to groom

Behaviour: Interaction. **Description:** Communication between one bird and another, or many other birds. This may include chasing/being chased, neck swaying, bumping another flamingo out of the way or mounting to name just a few.

Behaviour: Out of sight. **Description:** You cannot see what these flamingos are doing. This may be due to the angle of the webcam, lighting or the flamingo has moved out of the frame of the webcam.

Behaviour: _____ **Description:** _____

Behaviour: _____ **Description:** _____

Behaviour: _____ **Description:** _____

Behaviour: _____ **Description:** _____

Greater flamingo five-minute behaviour study - instructions

Behaviour studies are an important tool to help us to learn more about animals both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* (in and out of their natural habitat). They can be used to identify health and welfare issues, to inform enclosure design, enrichment, conservation plans and much more.

Activity: Every 30 seconds for five minutes, tally what you can see the flamingos doing on their webcam:

<https://www.marwell.org.uk/zoo/keep-in-touch/webcams>

(or search 'webcams' in the search bar on the Marwell Zoo homepage)

Example:

Date: 01/03/2020		Weather: Sunny/rain/windy					
Behaviour							
Time (mm:ss)	Resting/sleeping	Standing	Locomotion	Egg incubation	Preening	Interaction	Out of sight
00:00	###						### ###
00:30	###	###					###

This type of sampling is called time sampling, where you only note down the behaviours of the animals at that moment in time. Between times, even if one of the flamingos does a back flip, you have to ignore it! There is a clock on the webcam to help you keep to your 30 second timeframe.

If you need more time to count, note down what's happening every one minute instead. Use the table(s) on the next page to record your results. They are set up for a five-minute study but if you would like to continue for longer, why not design your own data table to collect your results.



Date:		Weather: Sunny/rain/windy					
Behaviour							
Time (mm:ss)	Resting/sleeping	Standing	Locomotion	Egg incubation	Preening	Interaction	Out of sight
00:00							
00:30							
01:00							
01:30							
02:00							
02:30							
03:00							
03:30							
04:00							
04:30							
05:00							
Other behaviours observed:							

Date:		Weather: Sunny/rain/windy							
Behaviour									
Time (mm:ss)	Resting/sleeping	Standing	Locomotion	Egg incubation	Preening	Interaction	Out of sight	Other 1	Other 2
Other behaviours observed:									