

Activity I: Wildlife Identification

Objectives

Contestants will be able to identify wildlife species present in Arkansas based on visual, auditory and behavioral cues, and descriptions. The ability to identify these wildlife species and understanding their life histories will provide a basis for other contest activities.

Overview

Each team member will answer 20 questions about wildlife found in the announced contest regions (Table 1). One of these regions will always be the urban region. The other region will be announced prior to the contest.

This activity will focus on the contestant's ability to identify wildlife species found in the announced region. This includes identification from pictures, artifacts, replicas, or other representations as found in a natural outdoor condition. Wildlife identification can also include questions about life history and behavior that lead to identification. This information can be found in wildlife guides and references from libraries, bookstores and the Internet.

All wildlife to be identified in this activity will be taken from the official species list (Table 1). Wildlife species listed under the urban region and from one other announced region will be eligible for this event. Minimally, contestants should be able to:

- Identify birds by plumage, nests, eggs, tracks and birdsongs.
- Identify mammals by fur, skulls, vocalizations, tracks or other sign, such as a beaver's chewed log or a buck's rubbed tree.
- Identify the male, female, juvenile and adult of a species.
- Know the unique life histories and behaviors of these wildlife.

Contest Rules

1. Contestants will complete the scorecard individually. This is not a team event.
2. Contestants are required to identify wildlife species from the official species list (Table 1). The urban region will always be one of two regions selected for the contest. Another region may be selected from among the four remaining regions.
3. Contestants will be judged on the accuracy of identification by writing their full common name as listed in this handbook. The test format is fill-in-the-blank. The full common name must be spelled correctly to receive credit for the response. (For example, Eastern Gray Squirrel, not Gray Squirrel or Squirrel.) Use of capitalization is not a consideration.
4. Contestants need to bring pencils and a clipboard for this event. (No extra pencils or pencil sharpeners will be available.)
5. Contestants will be given 30 minutes to answer questions and record information on the score sheet.
6. This event is worth 20 points. One point will be given for each correct answer.

Table 1. Wildlife species in each region.

Species	Region				
	Eastern Deciduous Forest	Grasslands – Tallgrass/ Mixed Prairie	Southeast Mixed and Outer Coastal Plain Forest	Urban	Wetlands
American alligator					X
American beaver					X
American kestrel		X	X		
American robin				X	
Big brown bat				X	
Black bear	X		X		X
Bluegill	X	X	X		X
Blue-winged teal		X			
Bobcat	X				
Box turtle	X	X			
Brown thrasher	X		X		
Bullfrog					X
Butterflies		X		X	
Canada goose (breeding habitat)					X
Common or lesser nighthawk				X	
Coyote		X	X		
Dickcissel		X			
Eastern bluebird	X		X	X	
Eastern cottontail	X	X	X	X	
Eastern fox squirrel				X	
Eastern gray squirrel	X		X		
Eastern hognose snake		X			
Eastern towhee	X				
Elk	X				
European starling				X	
Frogs				X	
Grasshopper sparrow		X			
Great horned owl	X		X		
Hairy woodpecker			X		
House finch				X	
House sparrow				X	
House wren				X	
Hummingbird				X	
Largemouth bass	X	X	X		X
Mallard (winter habitat)			X		X
Mink					X
Mourning dove	X	X	X		
Muskrat					X
Northern bobwhite	X	X	X		
Northern flicker				X	

Species	Region				
	Eastern Deciduous Forest	Grasslands – Tallgrass/ Mixed Prairie	Southeast Mixed and Outer Coastal Plain Forest	Urban	Wetlands
Northern harrier		X			X
Ovenbird	X				
Prairie vole		X			
Prothonotary warbler			X		
Raccoon			X	X	X
Red-eyed vireo			X		
Redhead					X
Red-tailed hawk		X			
Red-winged blackbird					X
River otter					X
Rock dove				X	
Ruffed grouse	X				
Song sparrow				X	
Spotted skunk		X			
White-tailed deer	X	X	X		
Wild turkey	X	X	X		
Wood duck	X		X		X
Total	19	19	20	17	16

Wildlife Identification Resources

A list of “Wildlife Species and Their Habitat Needs” follows this section.

The following list of Web sites and book references represents a small number of available sources. In addition, experts from local resource agencies can help with wildlife identification, life histories, and behaviors.

Web sites:

Animal Diversity Web, <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu>
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, www.agfc.com
Birds of Arkansas, <http://www.birdsofarkansas.org/>
Cornell Lab of Ornithology, <http://cornellornithology.links2go.com/more/www.birdsofna.org>
E-nature, www.enature.com
Herps of Arkansas, <http://www.herpsofarkansas.com/>
Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, North American Mammals:
<http://www.mnh.si.edu/mna/main.cfm>. (Develop personalized field guide.)

Books:

The Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas by Stanley E. Trauth, Henry W. Robison and Michael V. Plummer. University of Arkansas Press. Color photos and descriptions. Large book, not for the field. 421 pages.

Arkansas Butterflies and Moths by Lori A. Spencer. The Ozark Society Foundation. Color photos and descriptions. 314 pages.

Arkansas Mammals: Their Natural History, Classification, and Distribution by John A. Sealander and Gary A. Heidt. The University of Arkansas Press. Color photos and detailed descriptions of mammals and their life histories. Pen and ink sketches of skulls but not tracks or scat. Large book, not for the field. 308 pages.

Bird Tracks and Sign by Mark Elbroch with Elenor Marks. Color photos and sketches of tracks, droppings, pellets, nests, signs of feeding, feathers and more. Stackpole Books. 456 pages.

Mammal Tracks and Sign by Mark Elbroch. Color photos and sketches of tracks, scat, burrows, signs of feeding, and more. National Outdoor Book Award. Stackpole Books. 779 pages.

The Sibley Guide to Birds of Eastern North America by David Allen Sibley. The Audubon Society. Alfred A. Knopf Publishers. Color illustrations and descriptions. 543 pages.

Birds' Eggs by Michael Walters. Eyewitness Handbooks. DK Publishing, New York. 256 pages.

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity I: Wildlife Identification Scorecard
Regions: Eastern Deciduous Forest & Urban
JUNIOR

Directions: Write the letter of the wildlife species in the blank.

1. _____

13. _____

2. _____

14. _____

3. _____

15. _____

4. _____

16. _____

5. _____

17. _____

6. _____

18. _____

7. _____

19. _____

8. _____

20. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

- A. American Robin
- B. Big Brown Bat
- C. Black Bear
- D. Bluegill
- E. Bobcat
- F. Box Turtle
- G. Brown Thrasher
- H. Butterflies
- I. Common / Lesser Nighthawk
- J. Eastern Bluebird
- K. Eastern Cottontail
- L. Eastern Fox Squirrel
- M. Eastern Gray Squirrel
- N. Eastern Towhee
- O. Elk
- P. European Starling
- Q. Frogs
- R. Great Horned Owl
- S. House Finch
- T. House Sparrow
- U. House Wren
- V. Hummingbird
- W. Largemouth Bass
- X. Mourning Dove
- Y. Northern Bobwhite
- Z. Northern Flicker
- AA. Ovenbird
- BB. Raccoon
- CC. Rock Dove (Pigeon)
- DD. Ruffed Grouse
- EE. Song Sparrow
- FF. White-tailed Deer
- GG. Wild Turkey
- HH. Wood Duck

Total Correct: _____

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity I: Wildlife Identification Scorecard
Regions: Grasslands – Tallgrass/Mixed Prairie & Urban
JUNIOR

Directions: Write the letter of the wildlife species in the blank.

1. _____

14. _____

2. _____

15. _____

3. _____

16. _____

4. _____

17. _____

5. _____

18. _____

6. _____

19. _____

7. _____

20. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

- A. American Kestrel
- B. American Robin
- C. Big Brown Bat
- D. Bluegill
- E. Blue-winged Teal
- F. Box Turtle
- G. Butterflies
- H. Common / Lesser Nighthawk
- I. Coyote
- J. Dickcissel
- K. Eastern Bluebird
- L. Eastern Cottontail
- M. Eastern Fox Squirrel
- N. Eastern Hognose Snake
- O. European Starling
- P. Frogs
- Q. Grasshopper Sparrow
- R. House Finch
- S. House Sparrow
- T. House Wren
- U. Hummingbird
- V. Largemouth Bass
- W. Mourning Dove
- X. Northern Bobwhite
- Y. Northern Flicker
- Z. Northern Harrier
- AA. Prairie Vole
- BB. Raccoon
- CC. Red-tailed Hawk
- DD. Rock Dove
- EE. Song Sparrow
- FF. Spotted Skunk
- GG. White-tailed Deer
- HH. Wild Turkey

Total Correct: _____

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity I: Wildlife Identification Scorecard
Regions: Southern Mixed / Outer Coastal Plain Forest & Urban
JUNIOR

Directions: Write the letter of the wildlife species in the blank.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

- A. American Kestrel
- B. American Robin
- C. Big Brown Bat
- D. Black Bear
- E. Bluegill
- F. Brown Thrasher
- G. Butterflies
- H. Common / Lesser Nighthawk
- I. Coyote
- J. Eastern Bluebird
- K. Eastern Cottontail
- L. Eastern Fox Squirrel
- M. Eastern Gray Squirrel
- N. European Starling
- O. Frogs
- P. Great Horned Owl
- Q. Hairy Woodpecker
- R. House Finch
- S. House Sparrow
- T. House Wren
- U. Hummingbird
- V. Largemouth Bass
- W. Mallard
- X. Mourning Dove
- Y. Northern Bobwhite
- Z. Northern Flicker
- AA. Prothonotary Warbler
- BB. Raccoon
- CC. Red-eyed Vireo
- DD. Rock Dove
- EE. Song Sparrow
- FF. White-tailed Deer
- GG. Wild Turkey
- HH. Wood Duck

Total Correct: _____

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity I: Wildlife Identification Scorecard
Regions: Wetlands & Urban
JUNIOR

Directions: Write the letter of the wildlife species in the blank.

1. _____

13. _____

2. _____

14. _____

3. _____

15. _____

4. _____

16. _____

5. _____

17. _____

6. _____

18. _____

7. _____

19. _____

8. _____

20. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

- A. American Alligator
- B. American Beaver
- C. American Robin
- D. Big Brown Bat
- E. Black Bear
- F. Bluegill
- G. Bullfrog
- H. Butterflies
- I. Canada Goose
- J. Common / Lesser Nighthawk
- K. Eastern Bluebird
- L. Eastern Cottontail
- M. Eastern Fox Squirrel
- N. European Starling
- O. Frogs
- P. House Finch
- Q. House Sparrow
- R. House Wren
- S. Hummingbird
- T. Largemouth Bass
- U. Mallard
- V. Mink
- W. Muskrat
- X. Northern Flicker
- Y. Northern Harrier
- Z. Raccoon
- AA. Redhead
- BB. Red-winged Blackbird
- CC. River Otter
- DD. Rock Dove
- EE. Song Sparrow
- FF. Wood Duck

Total Correct: _____