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Wildlife Guide to the College of Wooster Campus



Art  Bridges



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This guidebook was designed by Kayla Stevens.

Eastern Gray Squirrel:

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- https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Sciurus_carolinensis/
- https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/easterngraysquirrel.aspx

Striped Skunk:

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Woodchuck:

- <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/46095-Marmota-monax>
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White-tailed Deer:

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Little Brown Bat:

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Virginia Opossum:

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Eastern Chipmunk:

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The Canada Goose

Habitat & Behavior:

Mainly found near bodies of water, these areas include grasslands, marshlands, and tundra. But they are also commonly found in parks, golf courses and open fields.



Branta canadensis

These birds can be loud, very honkey, messy, and during nesting very aggressive. But they tend to avoid humans and keep to their own.

Identification Tips:

These birds are easily identifiable by their black face and white stripe. They are large and have brown bodies!

Even though they are prominent now, in the early 20th century these birds were almost hunted to extinction!

Red-tailed Hawk

Habitat & Behavior:

The most common hawk in North America, many can be found year-round across the United States and Mexico, with others breeding in Canada. They live in open fields, woodlands, and along roadways, perching on tree branches and utility poles to watch for prey below.



Buteo jamaicensis

When courting one another, male and female hawks soar in high circles, periodically diving and swooping.

Red-tailed hawks can see a single mouse on the ground from 100 ft in the air.

[20distributed, numerous%20in%20the%20Lake%20Plain%20andTill%20Plain%20regions.](#)

Blue Jay:

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Turkey Vulture:

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Eastern Cottontail Rabbit:

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Northern Cardinal:

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American Robin:

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American Crow:

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Identification Tips:

- The red-tailed hawk is the largest *buteo* hawk species in Ohio.
- These hawks are often identified by their fan-shaped, rusty-red tails.
- Most are brown with a pale underside and streaked belly.
- They can be easily recognized by their loud, high-pitched raspy screech.

Red-tailed hawks are accomplished voice actors. Hollywood often replaces bald eagles' and other raptors' calls with the screech of a red-tailed hawk in films and television shows.

Northern Cardinal



Cardinalis cardinalis

Habitat & Behavior:

Common across Eastern North America. Found in areas with shrubs and small trees.

Eats seeds, fruits, and insects. Territorial during breeding season in

the spring but can be seen in groups during the winter. Both males and females sing.

Identification Tips:

Males are a bright red color, and females are brown. Both have a thick orange beak surrounded by a dark mask, and a prominent crest on the head.

The Northern Cardinal is the state bird of Ohio!

White-tailed Deer



Odocoileus virginianus

Habitat & Behavior:

The white-tailed deer is found throughout North and South America. They prefer to live in forests, but can also be found in fields and near human settlements.

They are most active during the dawn and dusk hours and are known for their keen senses of sight, smell, and hearing, which help them avoid predators.

Identification Tips:

White-tailed deer have white underbellies and distinctive white fur on the underside of their tails, which they raise when alarmed. They are reddish-brown in color during the summer, but their fur turns grayish-brown in winter.

White-tailed deer can swim up to 13 miles per hour!

Raccoon

Habitat & Behavior:

Raccoons are known to live in many environments, but primarily live in woodlands, and it is an extra bonus if there is water nearby. They like to live in elevated surfaces like holes in trees. They are mostly nocturnal, but it is not uncommon for them to forage during the day. They are very good climbers.



Procyon lotor

Identification Tips:

Raccoons are known for their dark colored masks, striped bushy tails, wide faces, and round ears. They can range from 16-28 inches in length and 9-12 inches in height.

Raccoons can be kept as pets in certain states with a permit.

American Robin

Habitat & Behavior:

Common in lawns, city parks, fields, woodlands and forests.

You might see them searching for earthworms or roosting in trees during fall and winter.

Robins feed on lots of fruit. If they eat too many honeysuckle berries they sometimes become

Identification Tips:

Round and rusty belly, yellow bill, black streaks on throat. Immature individuals are often paler than adults.



Turdus migratorius

American Crow



Corvus brachyrhynchos

Habitat & Behavior:

The American Crow is found across all of Ohio. Crows are social birds and flock in late summer. The diet of crows consists of grain, insects, dead animals, bird eggs, small mammals, and berries.

Identification Tips:

These birds can be identified by their cawing. Crows can often be visually confused with ravens. However, ravens are much larger than crows, and their tail feather have a diamond shape, while crows have a fan-like shape to their tail feathers.

Crows can be trained to give shiny objects to those close to them.

Woodchuck

Habitat & Behavior:

Woodchucks are burrowing mammals, and usually live near forests or fields. They are very widespread throughout North America, ranging from the southern U.S. up through Canada.

They mostly hibernate the entire winter and are mostly herbivores, although they sometimes eat insects and bird eggs.



Marmota monax

Identification Tips:

Woodchucks are usually brown, with a short, furry tail. They are 1-2 feet in length and have incisor teeth at the front of their mouth.

Woodchucks are known to climb trees when they're threatened by predators.

Striped Skunk



Mephitis mephitis

Habitat & Behavior:

The Striped Skunk is found throughout Northern America, Canada, and Mexico. They prefer open agricultural land, but have adapted to woody areas

and urban and suburban environments. Recently, they have been found nesting under the house porches here on campus!

Identification Tips:

Easily identifiable by two thick white stripes running from the back to the tail, contrasting the black coat. They also have a thin, vertical white stripe along the snout.

The Striped Skunk is known for its foul-smelling defense system. If the spray from the two glands below its tail gets in the eyes of the attacker, it can cause temporary blindness and pain.

Blue Jay

Habitat & Behavior:

Blue jays live primarily in oak and pine-wooded trees, gardens, groves, and townships.

They often search for food on the ground. They use their beaks to pry open nuts or seeds to break them open and often harvest acorns for storage in holes in the ground.



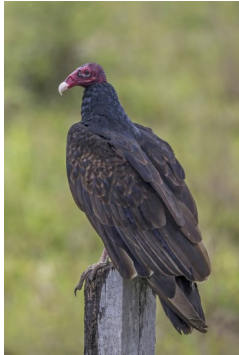
Cyanocitta cristata

Identification Tips:

Blue jays rub ants on their feathers to remove the formic acid present on ants' bodies before consuming them.

Blue jays are quite easy to identify, given their blue color and markings. They also have a unique physical structure, with a black necklace that runs across their body.

Turkey Vulture



Cathartes aura

Habitat & Behavior:

The Turkey Vulture is a carrion-eating bird found in the Midwest during its breeding season, and all year round in more southern regions.

Turkey vultures have incredibly acidic stomachs, allowing them to eat rabies and even anthrax infected carrion without risk.

Identification Tips:

Turkey Vultures can be identified by their bald head and V-shaped wing silhouette during flight.

Most birds have a poor sense of smell, but a Turkey Vulture's is much more powerful than a human's.

Eastern Gray Squirrel



Sciurus carolinensis

Habitat & Behavior:

These squirrels live all over the U.S., and their preferred habitat is mature woodlands, particularly those containing oaks and walnuts.

These squirrels are fast and adept at moving through treetops. They are more active during the day as they gather food.

Identification Tips:

They have bushy tails and brown, black, and white fur that blend to look gray from a distance. Color morphs of this species exist, and they can be fully black or white in color.

The average lifespan for squirrels is 6 years in the wild, but those in captivity have lived for 20+ years.

Eastern Chipmunk

Habitat & Behavior:

Chipmunks live throughout Canada and the Eastern U.S. They can be found around forest edges, meadows, and fields. They often build their dens in hollow trees, logs, or stone walls.



Tamias striatus

They are most active between mid-morning and mid-afternoon. They are omnivores, and build complex burrow systems with levels for sleeping and food storage.

Identification Tips:

They have a white belly and reddish-brown back with five dark stripes. They have stretchable cheek pockets.

A chipmunk can gather up to 165 acorns in a day!

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

Habitat & Behavior:



Sylvilagus floridanus

The Eastern Cottontail Rabbit is found in wooded areas and open land such as fields and backyard.

They're primarily active at dawn and dusk, and can travel up to 18

miles per hour by hopping. It is generally a solitary animal—they spend time with other rabbits when mating or raising young, and communicate by thumping their feet.

Identification Tips:

Their fur is primarily brown with a mix of black and white, they have long ears and fluffy tails. They usually weigh 4 pounds or less.

These rabbits stand on their hind legs to sense predators from long distances and have nearly 360° vision.

Little Brown Bat



Myotis lucifugus

Habitat & Behavior:

This bat lives in forests, along streams & lakes, and urban & suburban areas across North American and elevated Mexico.

They are nocturnal and mate with multiple partners in late summer-fall. They live in colonies of 100s-1000s. They live an average of 6-7 years. They eat 1/2 their body weight in insects each night!

Identification Tips:

- **Body length:** .5-4 in.
- **Wingspan:** 8-11 in.
- **Weight:** 5.5-12.5 g.
- **Color:** Fur blends of brown and buff with lighter underbelly and brown-black wing membranes, ears, feet, & snout

One of these bats lived to be 31 yrs. old in the wild!

Virginia Opossum

While they are famous for playing dead, this is mostly done by younger opossums.

Habitat & Behavior:

The Virginia Opossum is found coast to coast in the New World. They are highly adaptable, living in various habitats, with a preference for woodlands. They are omnivores and nocturnal. They tend to have litters that can range anywhere from 4-25 babies, which grow very fast.

Identification Tips:

- Virginia Opossums are about the size of domestic cats, with gray-brown fur and white faces. They have hairless tails, ears, and long, flat noses.



Didelphis virginiana