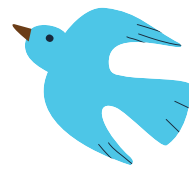


girl scouts 
of the chesapeake bay

www.gscb.org

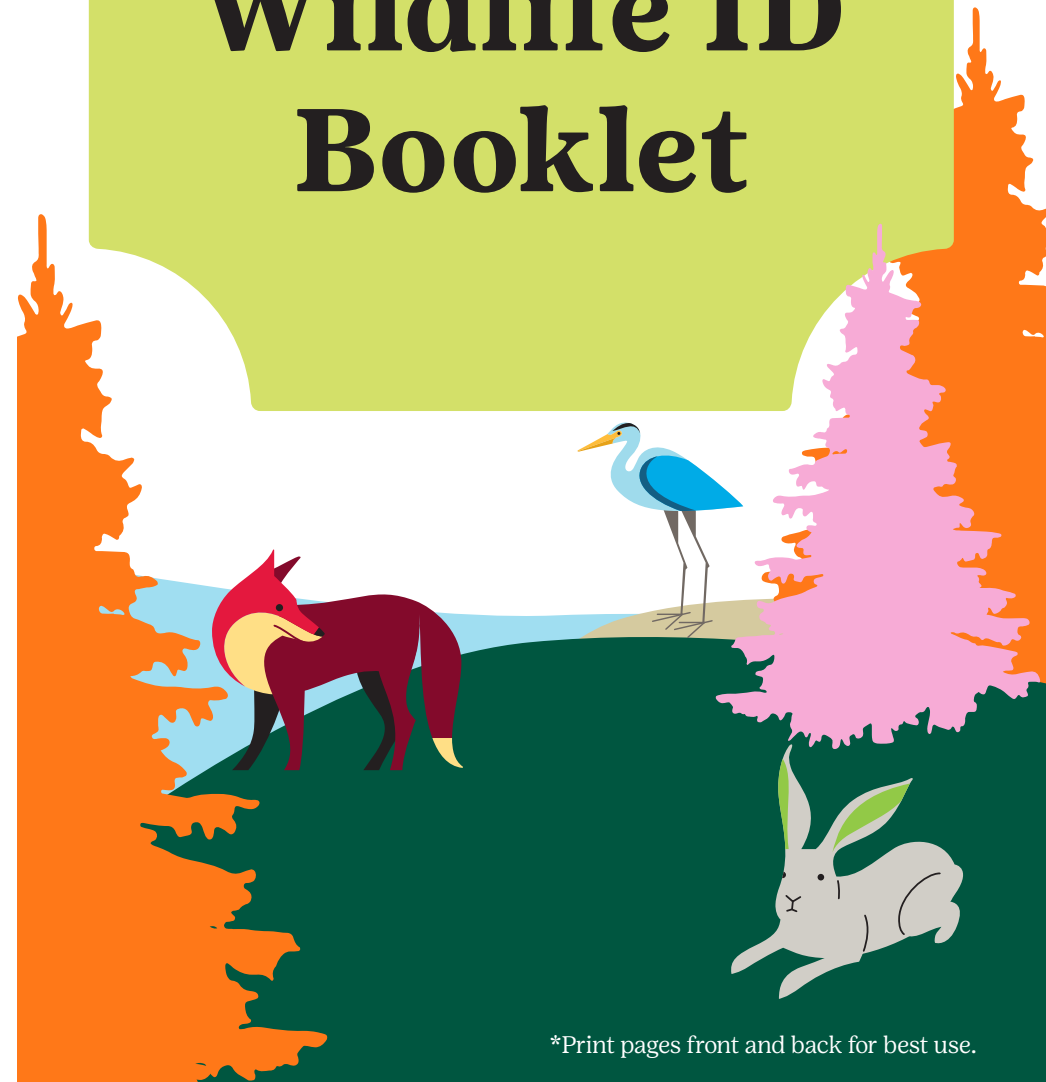
Newark Resource Center (NRC)
225 Old Baltimore Pike
Newark, DE 19702
800-341-4007

MemberCare@cbgsc.org



 **gscb**

Wildlife ID Booklet



*Print pages front and back for best use.

Who lives here?

Find out what wildlife calls GSCB camp properties home!



A natural home for a plant or animal is called a **habitat**.

Types of habitats are deserts, grasslands, caves, forests, marine, wetlands, etc.

What types of habitats do we have at camp?

Who lives in these habitats?

What do they eat?

Herbivores eat plants.
Carnivores eat animals.
Omnivores eat both.



When do you see them?

Diurnal animals are awake in the daytime.
Nocturnal animals are awake in the nighttime.

Facilitation Tips for Volunteers

1. Find a pavilion or grassy spot where you can observe nature.
2. Encourage your group to make observations about what they see and hear. Try having them draw what they see, then sharing their observations.
3. Use this book to identify animals.
4. Take a walk to look for tracks, new species, and observing what can be found “off the beaten path”. Take pauses to learn what animals might be found in different areas - by water, in trees, etc. What about where they might eat? Some birds peck the ground for worms while others stalk the water for fish.

Valuable Terms

- Vertebrates - Having a backbone or spinal column, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish
- Invertebrates - Cold-blooded animals who lack a backbone and can live on land or water including spiders, worms, insects, crabs, clams, lobsters and coral
- Pneumatized Bones - Technical term for the hollow bones birds have which give them space for air to help with oxygen intake while flying.
- Scientific Name - Every recognized species on Earth is given a two-part scientific name. The process is called “Binomial Nomenclature”. They are international and unambiguous to allow people in science to communicate without question. Scientific names also tell you about the animals relationships with other animals.

Freshwater Bryozoan



Common Name:
Freshwater Bryozoan

Scientific Name:
Phylactolaemata

Diet: Herbivore



Freshwater Bryozoan are not fish, they are referred to as a “moss animal”. They are filter feeders who eat algae and remove suspended sediments and their presence is a good water quality indicator. They require healthy water to survive.

Bryozoan accumulate in large, gelatinous colonies made up of hundreds to thousands of the tiny animals. They form a firm and slimy base which attaches to anything stationary below the surface of the water.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Look for Freshwater Bryozoan along the shoreline and docks.

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The taxonomic hierarchy below is used to classify organisms, including plants and microorganisms like bacteria. It’s an international system. This book is sorted by classes that contain a series of species. For more detailed information, visit AnimalDiversity.org using the QR code below.



Mammals

A mammal is a warm-blooded vertebrate animal that has hair or fur. A vertebrate is an animal with a spine or vertebrae. Mammals also feed their young with milk.

Where?

You may spot mammals at both Camp Country Center or Camp Todd.

How to spot?

You may see my tracks or scat before you see me.

Mammal Facts

- The blue whale is the largest mammal in the world.
- The bumblebee bat is the smallest mammal in the world.
- Mammals are found on every continent and in every ocean.
- Mammals can be carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.
- Humans are mammals.
- Monotremes (platypus and echidna) are the only mammals that lay eggs. All other mammals give birth to live young.
- There is debate over which mammal is the “hairiest” - some say it’s the Musk Ox while others say sea lions pack more follicles per square inch of skin.
- Mammals that incubate their young in pouches (like koalas) are called marsupials, while mammals that incubate their young in a womb are called placentals.
- Mammals tend to have bigger brains and be more socially advanced than other types of animals.

Mussel



Common Name: Mussel

Scientific Name:
Mytilidae

Diet: Herbivore



Mussels are not fish, they are mollusks! There are many species of mussel you can find. They are very popular for human consumption, and are a crucial part of healthy marine ecosystems due to them being natural filter feeders. They remove phytoplankton and sediment, like a tiny vacuum!

You can learn how old a mussel is by counting the ribs on its shell.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

During low tide, mussels close their shell, trapping waste that can be toxic to humans. Collect them during high tide.

Bluegill Sunfish



Common Name: Bluegill Sunfish

Scientific Name:
Lepomis macrochirus

Diet: Omnivore



The Bluegill is a colorful sunfish with a saucer-shaped body. It lives in lakes, ponds, streams and other freshwater bodies. They are well known for being playful and easy to catch, and for being a delicious fish to eat.

Bluegills can be confused with the Pumpkinseed, another sunfish, but can be distinguished by their black earflaps and dark smudge on the back of their dorsal fin. Bluegills and Pumpkinseeds often interbreed, creating hybrids.

Population Status: Stable

- Find Me At:**
- Camp Country Center
 - Camp Todd

What to look for:

This playful fish will bite on all types of bait due to their low swimming, bottom feeding tendencies.

White Tailed Deer



Common Name: White Tailed Deer

Scientific Name:
Odocoileus virginianus

Diet: Herbivore



White tailed deer are the smallest members of the North American deer family and are found from southern Canada to South America. In the summer, they typically inhabit fields and meadows while in the winter, they generally keep to forests.

Male deer, called bucks, are recognizable in the summer and fall by their antlers. Bucks antlers fall off each winter and begin regrowing in April.

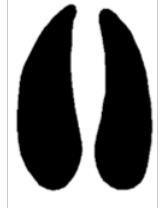
Female deer, called does, usually have short antlers covered in "velvet" fur. Does can give birth to 1-3 young at a time, usually in May or June. They carry their young for 7 months. Young deer are called fawns.

Population Status: Abundant

*Overhunting caused deer populations to drastically decline throughout the 19th century, but successful reintroduction, too few natural predators, and fast reproduction has caused an overabundance of deer in some locations.

- Find Me At:**
- Camp Country Center
 - Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Striped Skunk



Common Name: Striped Skunk

Scientific Name:
Mephitis mephitis

Diet: Omnivore



Skunks are known for their powerful predator-deterrent - a hard-to-remove, horrible-smelling spray. A skunk's spray is an oily liquid produced by glands under its large tail and can travel as far as ten feet. It causes no real damage, but can make victims uncomfortable and linger for days.

You can usually find skunks living in hollow logs or in burrows constructed by other animals.

Female skunks can give birth to between two and ten young per year.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Brown Bullhead



Common Name: Brown Bullhead

Scientific Name:
Ameiurus nebulosus

Diet: Omnivore



The Brown Bullhead is a smooth-skinned catfish with whisker-like barbels around its mouth. They rely on the barbels to find prey because they have poor eyesight. It can be found in slow-moving ponds, streams and rivers and prefers fresh or slightly brackish waters with soft bottoms and lots of vegetation.

The Brown Bullhead is considered a delicious fish to eat.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Look for its yellowish-brown or olive-colored body. Brown Bullheads can grow up to 20 inches long.

Yellow Perch



Common Name: Yellow Perch, Jumbo Perch, Jack Perch

Scientific Name: Perca flavescens

Diet: Carnivore



Yellow Perch are bright yellow fish with dark vertical bars on their sides. They live in freshwater rivers and streams, and sometimes brackish waters.

Yellow Perch are surprisingly poor swimmers because they cannot accelerate quickly. They are a popular recreational catch.

Population Status: Stable but declining due to pollution in freshwater streams

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Look for the reddish-orange fins.

Raccoon



Common Name: Raccoon

Scientific Name: Procyon lotor

Diet: Omnivore



Raccoons are nocturnal mammals that live throughout much of the world in wooded areas and big cities alike.

Although they don't actually hibernate, raccoons tend to sleep for long periods of time in the winter and prepare by packing on extra body fat in the fall.

In wooded areas, raccoons eat fruit, seeds, nuts, birds' eggs and plants and in the city, they scavenge for scraps of food and trash. They are also excellent swimmers and hunt for fish, frogs and crayfish.

Population Status: Increasing

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Virginia Opossum



Common Name: Virginia Opossum

Scientific Name: Didelphidae virginiana

Diet: Omnivore



The Virginia Opossum is the only marsupial found in the United States and Canada.

When an opossum is born, it is as tiny as a honeybee. It crawls into its mother's pouch where it will develop and grow larger. Mothers can give birth to up to 20 babies, but fewer than half of them survive.

It is very rare for an opossum to catch rabies because their body temperature stays between 94 and 97 degrees F. Opossums are scavengers and will often raid garbage cans and dumpsters or seek roadkill or other dead animals. They also hunt small animals and insects or eat grass, nuts or fruit.

Opossums are well known for flopping onto their sides with their eyes closed or fixed into space when threatened - "playing dead".

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



Largemouth Bass



Common Name: Largemouth Bass, Green Bass

Scientific Name: Micropterus salmoides

Diet: Carnivore



The largemouth bass is one of the most popular sport fishes in the U.S. They are abundant in all tributaries to the Bay and prefer fresh and low-brackish waters, lakes with shallow areas, and large, slow-moving rivers or streams.

Largemouth bass can live long lives, usually around 16 years but up to 25 years.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Notice the dark stripe running along the side of the body and the lower jaw that extends well past the eye.

Minnow



Common Name: Minnow

Scientific Name:
Cyprinidae

Diet: Omnivore



Often any small fish is referred to as a “minnow”, but minnows are their own species of fish. Multiple species of minnow can be found in the Chesapeake Bay area. They can be found in flat waters, including tidal freshwater. Minnows are nocturnal and avoid bright light, but can be spotted during the day.

Population Status: Stable in our area, but some species are threatened due to habitat loss and dropping water levels

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Minnows like fresh water and can be found swimming in shoals/swarms.

Delmarva Fox Squirrel



Common Name:
Delmarva Fox Squirrel

Scientific Name: *Sciurus niger cinereus*

Diet: Omnivore



Delmarva Fox Squirrels are one of the 10 recognized subspecies of fox squirrels and shares similar features to the common gray squirrel. Delmarva Fox Squirrels can grow up to 30 inches long and weigh up to 3 lbs. It's bushy tail can reach up to 15 inches in length, which is much larger than a common gray squirrel.

Originally, Delmarva Fox Squirrels could be found across the entire Delmarva Peninsula and parts of southeastern Pennsylvania, but today they are located mostly on the eastern shore of Maryland and a few places in Delaware and Virginia.

Females give birth to a litter of 1-4 young per year.

Population Status: Improving with conservation efforts
*Considered an endangered species from 1967 - 2015

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Gray Squirrel



Common Name: Eastern Gray Squirrel

Scientific Name: *Sciurus carolinensis*

Diet: Omnivore



Squirrels have four front teeth that never stop growing, so they never have to worry about their teeth wearing down from constant gnawing.

Common gray squirrels can be found most anywhere from forests to city parks to your backyard. They mostly dwell high in trees or in underground burrows.

Because female squirrels can give birth to multiple litters a year, each litter ranging from 2 - 8 babies, squirrel population is robust.

Population Status: Abundant

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



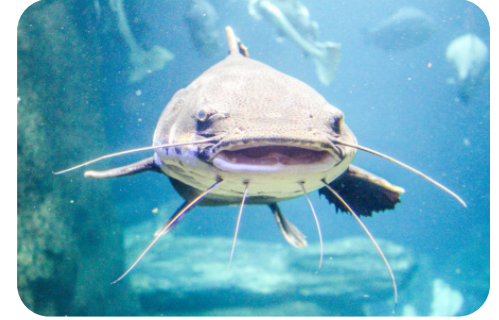
Blue Catfish



Common Name: Blue Catfish

Scientific Name: *Ictalurus furcatus*

Diet: Carnivore



The Blue Catfish was introduced to the Chesapeake Bay region in the 1970s and is considered an invasive species. Their growing numbers have raised concern over the impact on native species that play an important role in the ecosystem and economy.

Blue catfish are the largest species of catfish and a popular recreational catch. The largest caught in Maryland weighed 84 lbs. The largest caught in Virginia was 102 lbs.

Population Status: Stable and increasing

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

When attacked, blue catfish defend themselves with barbs on their dorsal and pectoral fins. The spines have glands that expel harmful toxins.

Alewife



Common Name: Alewife, Big-eye, branch herring

Scientific Name: *Alosa pseudoharengus*

Diet: Carnivore



The alewife is a thin, silver fish with a single dark shoulder spot located behind its head. They can be found in coastal waters, but need to migrate to freshwater rivers, streams and ponds for spawning.

Alewifes are valuable fish for consumption. They are packaged fresh, smoked, salted or pickled for humans, but are also used for pet food, bait, and processing into fishmeal and fish oil.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Alewifes have fish beds along the water near the boat house. You'll see round circles of sand, cleared of sticks, leaves and rocks.

Eastern Cottontail



Common Name: Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

Scientific Name: *Sylvilagus floridanus*

Diet: Herbivore



The Eastern Cottontail Rabbit is named for the short, cotton-ball-like tail and they can be found from Canada to South America. In the US, their range stretches from the East Coast to the Midwest.

Eastern Cottontails can usually be found on the edges of fields, farms and other open spaces. They stay mostly hidden during the day. They snack on grass and garden greens like lettuce.

Eastern Cottontails can hop up to 18 miles an hour and often use a zig-zag motion to avoid being caught by predators. Their powerful noses have about 100 million receptors and help keep them safe. You may notice them twitching their noses, which they do between 20 to 120 times a minute.

Population Status: Abundant

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Meadow Vole



Common Name: Meadow Vole

Scientific Name:
Microtus pennsylvanicus

Diet: Herbivore



Meadow voles are rodents who are found throughout the northeast and east coast states of the United States, Alaska, and some territories of Canada. They can be found in grassy areas and agricultural fields, especially close to roadways, and in fresh, brackish or salt marshes, but as a burrowing rodent, you are much more likely to see their trails than a track or scat. Meadow voles are the most abundant rodent in the Chesapeake Bay's marshes.

Meadow voles breed as frequently as every 3 weeks from spring to fall, and less frequently in the winter. Their gestation period is only 20-23 days and they can produce up to 6 young per litter.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:

Voles may use a high pitch squeal to defend themselves against predators.

Fish

Fish are aquatic vertebrates with gills, which work like a nose to take oxygen into the lungs. They do not have limbs or digits.

Where?

You are most likely to spot fish at Camp Todd.

Fish Facts

- The largest fish in the world is the whale shark, which grows to more than 50 feet long and may weigh several tons.
- The smallest fish in the world is the tiny goby, which rarely grows larger than a half inch.
- Scientists can find out how old a fish is by counting growth rings on its scales or ear bones - just like a tree!
- Sharks are the only fish that can blink. All other fish don't have eyelids.
- Sailfish, marlin and tuna are some of the fastest fish in the world. A sailfish can swim up to 68 miles per hour, a marlin 50 miles per hour, and a tuna 47 miles per hour.
- Fish communicate with each other via sound, colors and motions.
- According to fossil records, fish have been on the Earth for more than 500 million years.
- The total number of living fish species - approx. 32,000 - is more than all other vertebrate species (amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) combined.

Worm Snake



Common Name: Worm Snake (AKA blind snake, thunder snake, milk snake, twig snake, cricket snake)



Scientific Name:
Carphophis amoenus

Diet: Carnivore

The worm snake is a blind, non-venomous snake that is often mistaken for an earthworm due its pale, brown color and small size. They stay hidden beneath moist soil, rotting logs and leaf litter. In its lifetime, worm snakes will not travel more than 125 meters throughout it's home range.

If handled, worm snakes emit a bad-smelling musk.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

You can distinguish a worm snake from an earthworm by it's face, and how it moves.

Groundhog



Common Name:
Groundhog or Wood Chuck



Scientific Name:
Marmota monax

Diet: Herbivore

The groundhog lives a hibernation lifestyle by gorging themselves all summer to build up reserves of fat, then burrow underground and sleep through the winter. They can be found widely across North America.

Despite their name, groundhogs can climb trees and swim. The frequent areas where woodlands meet open spaces.

To build their burrows, groundhogs remove an average of 275 lbs of rock and soil. The burrows can be extensive - 8 to 66 feet long - with multiple entrances and rooms, including bathrooms. They often become homes to other animals like skunks, foxes, weasels, opossums and rabbits.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:*

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



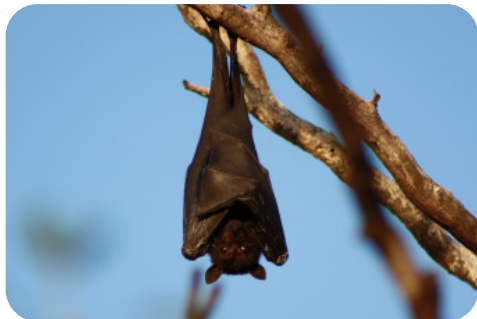
Bat



Common Name: Bat

Scientific Name:
Chiroptera

Diet: Carnivore



Bats most commonly found in the Chesapeake

Bay area are the big brown bat and the eastern red bat. Rare species of bats do occur but are on the state endangered species list: the little brown bat (all known colonies wiped out by White-Nose Syndrome) and the northern long-eared bat (nationally threatened). You can find them in wooded areas, over agricultural fields, ponds and creeks. Some bats will hang out in attics, barns, garages, shutters and other human structures.

Bats are insect-eating machines and help control disease by eating the insects that transmit disease to us like mosquitos. Bat guano (or bat poop) enriches the soil and is a highly effective fertilizer.

Bats are the only mammal capable of true and sustained flight. They are more agile in flight than most birds. Some bats use echolocation to travel and hunt after dark.

Population Status: Some species are endangered or in severe decline

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to listen for:



What to look for:

Look for bats at night in places where insects gather, grouped around streetlights, or near bodies of water and native plants.

When searching the sky, look to the darker spots of sky between lights.

Black Rat Snake



Common Name: Black Rat Snake, Eastern Rat Snake

Scientific Name: *Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*

Diet: Carnivore



The Black Rat Snake is the most widely distributed common rat snake. It's non-venomous with a long, black body and a white belly.

Black Rat Snakes kill their prey by constriction, which means it coils its body around the prey and holds on until the prey suffocates. It then swallows it whole and digests it slowly, over the course of several days.

Of species of rat snakes, black rat snakes are known to be the most combative when threatened.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

When cornered, it will coil in a defensive posture, hiss and strike repeatedly. They will also rapidly shake or vibrate the tail.



Want to learn more about Rat Snakes and other snakes found in the Chesapeake Bay area through a fun game?



Scan the code to the left to access our "Snake Solve" activity - fun to do on your own or with friends!

Eastern Hognose Snake



Common Name: Eastern Hognose Snake, Puff Adders

Scientific Name: Heterodon platirhinos

Diet: Carnivore



Eastern Hognose snakes are easily distinguished by their upturned snouts and can be found in woodlands with sandy soil, fields, farmland and coastal areas.

While most snakes have a lifespan of 2-8 years, Eastern Hognose Snakes live 10-20 years.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

You might see an Eastern Hognose Snake and think that it is dead - they are gentle snakes, known for playing dead to avoid predators.

Coyote



Common Name: Coyote

Scientific Name: Canis latras

Diet: Omnivore



Coyotes are members of the dog family and once lived primarily in open prairies and deserts, but now roam the forests and mountains across North America.

Coyotes will eat almost anything and often pose a danger to many ranchers and farmers by killing lambs, calves or other livestock. They have keen vision, strong sense of smell and can run up to 40 miles an hour.

Female coyotes will often give birth to a litter of 5-7 pups in the spring. Coyotes are monogamous, meaning they mate for life.

Population Status: Increasing to an all-time high

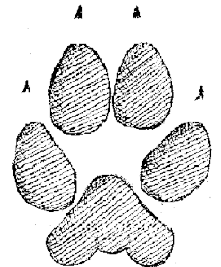
Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to listen for:



What to look for:



Muskrat



Common Name: Muskrat

Scientific Name:
Ondatra zibethicus

Diet: Omnivore



Muskrats are semi-aquatic mammals with brownish fur and a long, rudder-like tail. They are found in marshes and other shallow-water areas and often mistaken for beavers. They make nests in tree stumps and riverbanks, and are very territorial.

Muskrats are named for the strong musky odor they emit to communicate with one another. They have poor vision, hearing and smell. They are mostly nocturnal, but can sometimes be seen swimming or sunning during the day.

Muskrats have been observed swimming underwater for up to 17 minutes.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Look for damaged vegetation near water, in areas that stay particularly shaded and cool

What to listen for:



Spring Peeper



Common Name: Spring Peeper

Scientific Name:
Pseudacris crucifer

Diet: Carnivore



Spring Peepers are a type of tree frog found in wooded areas and grassy lowlands near ponds and swamps. They are small and well-camouflaged to look like tree bark, and the males signal the beginning of spring with their consistent “peep peep peep” calls mid-March. When hundreds of Spring Peepers sing in a single location, as they often do, the noise can be almost deafening.

They are good climbers but prefer the ground.

Population Status: Stable in our area but protected in others where loss of wetland habitats poses a threat

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

They are often heard, not seen because they don't often come out in the day and are excellent at camouflage. However, you can identify them by the X-shaped mark on their back.

What to listen for:



Bullfrog



Common Name:
American Bullfrog

Scientific Name:
Lithobates catesbeianus

Diet: Carnivore



The American Bullfrog is the largest of all North American frogs. They can grow over 8 inches long and weigh up to 1.7 lbs. They are well known for their deep baritone call, which only males emit.

Male bullfrogs are highly territorial and aggressive. They are nocturnal predators who sit quietly and wait for prey to pass by before lunging with their powerful legs, mouths open wide. Bullfrogs can even be cannibalistic and feed on their own kind.

Bullfrogs are often hunted by humans for meat (frog legs), but they are highly adaptable to many environments.

Population Status: Stable and increasing

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

The call of a male bullfrog is low frequency and can be heard for over a kilometer a way. It is described as a “jug-o-rum” sound. Listen for them around marshes and swamps at dusk.

What to listen for:



Gray Fox



Common Name: Gray Fox

Scientific Name:
Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Diet: Omnivore



The gray fox can be found in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They prefer areas with dense brush or woods that are close to the water. They make their dens in hollow trees or logs, under large rocks or in underground burrows.

The gray fox has a long, bushy tail with a black stripe and a black tip that accounts for nearly one-third of its body length.

Humans are considered the most significant threat to gray foxes as they are often hunted for their pelts or killed by farmers who consider them pests.

Gray foxes are the only species of fox that can climb trees.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Red Fox



Common Name: Red Fox

Scientific Name: *Vulpes vulpes*

Diet: Omnivore



Red foxes thrive in many diverse habitats including forests, swamps, grasslands, mountains, deserts, and even farms or suburban areas. They are notoriously resourceful and symbolic of intelligence and cunning. Red foxes are known to use their bushy tails as blankets to keep warm.

Female foxes are called vixens, and give birth to litters of 2 to 12 young.

Red foxes are mostly nocturnal but can be active during dusk and dawn. They are fast runners and can leap more than 6 feet high.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Southern Leopard Frog



Common Name: Southern Leopard Frog

Scientific Name: *Lithobates sphenoccephalus*

Diet: Carnivore



The Southern Leopard Frog has spots on its back, sides and legs and lives in wetland habitats. Easily mistaken for a toad, the frog can be recognized by its smooth skin and longer legs for hopping.

The Southern Leopard Frog is the most common true frog on the Coastal Plain.

Southern Leopard Frogs typically gather in large groups to breed. Eggs are attached in clusters of several hundred to vegetation just below the surface of the water. Southern Leopard Frog eggs can hatch earlier than normal if the vibrations of a predator are nearby.

Population Status: Stable, but loss of habitat and water pollution have reduced or eliminated some local populations

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

The sound of the Southern Leopard Frog is a short, chuckle-like guttural noise followed by two or three “clucks”. It is sometimes likened to the sound of rubbing a hand back and forth on a balloon.

What to listen for:



Eastern American Toad



Common Name: Eastern American Toad

Scientific Name:
Anaxyrus americanus

Diet: Carnivore



The Eastern American Toad is the most widely-distributed toad in North America. They can live almost everywhere and are commonly found in forests, backyards, gardens, agricultural fields, and underneath porches, flat stones, boards, logs, wood piles or other cover. They hibernate in the winter.

They are typically brown, gray, olive or reddish in color. You may also see warts on their backs, thighs and calfs, and spots on their bellies. Toads, other than when they are tadpoles, live on land and not water.

The Eastern American Toad periodically sheds its skin as they grow, they eat their old skin for nutrients.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Eastern American Toads will burrow in sandy or loamy soil or other moist hiding spaces.

What to listen for:



Black Squirrel



Common Name: Black Squirrel

Scientific Name: *Sciurus carolinensis*

Diet: Omnivore



Despite their differences in coloring, gray squirrels and “black squirrels” are actually members of the same species. The black coats are a result of interbreeding between gray and fox squirrels, who sometimes carry a pigment gene for darker fur.

Only 1 in 10,000 squirrels is a “black squirrel”.

Population Status: Abundant as gray squirrels, rare as black

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Birds

Warm-blooded vertebrates constituting the class Aves, characterized by feathers, toothless beaked jaws, and the laying of hard-shelled eggs, a high metabolic rate, a four-chambered heart, and a strong yet lightweight skeleton.

Where?

You may spot birds at both Camp Country Center or Camp Todd.

How to spot?

You might see piles of clam shells, which are left on the shore by birds to snack on.

Bird Facts

- The ostrich is the largest and heaviest bird in the world. They can reach up to 9 feet in height and weigh around 220-350 pounds.
- The bee hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world at just 5.5 centimeters in length and weigh about the same as a cashew nut.
- Birds do not sweat.
- Because birds do not have teeth, they rely on other means to digest their food. Birds have a gizzard, which is a muscular part of their stomach that collects the gritty, undigestible bits of their meals.
- Some birds can sleep in flight or with one eye open. Birds usually sleep in short spells and are capable of “unihemispheric slow-wave sleep” that allows them to quickly jump into action if they are threatened but rest if conditions are safe.
- Most birds you see with colorful feathers are male, who use the colors to attract mates. Females usually have more neutral coloring.

Five-Lined Skink



Common Name: Five-lined Skink

Scientific Name:
Plestiodon fasciatus

Diet: Carnivore



Five-lined skinks are known for the five white or yellow stripes that run down their bodies from nose to tail. As they age, male's stripes tend to fade. Young five-lined skinks have bright blue tails.

Five-lined skinks are active during the day and can be found in damp, forested areas. During the winter, they hibernate.

Like the blue-tailed skink, five-lined skinks can also break off their tail when threatened and regrow it.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- ✓ Camp Country Center
- ✓ Camp Todd

What to look for:

Five-lined skinks like damp, moist areas, but not water. They can be found in stumps, logs and rocky areas.

Blue-tailed Skink



Common Name: Blue-tailed Skink

Scientific Name:
Cryptoblepharus egeriae

Diet: Omnivore



Blue-tailed skinks are recognizable by their bright blue tails. They live primarily in forest and coastal areas, but can sometimes be seen in the suburbs on walls or fences. They can also be found basking on brick walls and stones, fallen tree trunks, clearings, on top of trees or small shrubs.

When threatened, blue-tailed skinks can “pop” their tail off - an instance called “autotomy”. After detachment, their tails can wiggle and distract the predator while the skink runs away. The skink can then regenerate its tail.

Blue-tailed skinks are one of the fastest lizard species in the world. They can grow up to 20 cms long (that’s longer than a dollar bill).

Population Status: Critically Endangered

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Blue-tailed skinks like rocky areas with lots of places to hide.

Great Blue Heron



Common Name: Great Blue Heron

Scientific Name: *Ardea herodias*

Diet: Carnivore



The Great Blue Heron is the most common and largest of North American herons. They are typically seen around coastlines, marshes, or near the shores of ponds or streams. They are expert fishers, and swallow their prey whole. They have been known to choke to death by trying to swallow prey that is too large.

Great Blue Herons can cruise from 20 to 30 miles an hour and have a wide wingspan (up to 6.6 feet).

Females can produce two to seven eggs.

Specially-shaped neck vertebrae allow Great Blue Herons to curl their neck into its characteristic S-shape.

Population Status: Stable and increasing

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Watch for their hunting style: Herons will stand in the water and wait for fish to come nearby. Then, they thrust their head and neck into the water to impale prey with their jaw.



What to listen for:

Sandhill Crane



Common Name: Sandhill Crane

Scientific Name:
Antigone canadensis

Diet: Omnivore



Sandhill cranes are the most common of the world's cranes, and they are found predominantly in North America. They can be found mostly in freshwater wetlands and are opportunistic eaters that enjoy plants, grains, mice, snakes, insects or worms. In flight, they are able to reach altitudes up to 26,000 feet.

Sandhill cranes are known for their dancing skills - when mating, they will stretch their wings, pump their heads, bow and leap into the air. When they find a mate, they mate for life.

Archaeologists have found Sandhill Crane fossils dating back to 2.5 million years ago.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Easily mistaken for a heron, cranes weigh more and like to hang out in marshy areas and shorelines.

What to listen for:



Spotted Salamander



Common Name: Spotted Salamander

Scientific Name:
Ambystoma maculatum

Diet: Carnivore



Despite its name, the spotted salamander is hard to spot. This amphibian spends almost its entire life hidden under rocks or logs, or in the burrows of other forest animals. They are most common in moist, low-lying forests near floodplains.

Spotted Salamanders are bluish-black with two irregular rows of yellow or orange spots extending from head to tail. They secrete a noxious, milky toxin to dissuade predators.

The population of spotted salamanders is currently stable, but facing threats due to rising water acidity in certain habitats and the pet trade.

Population Status: Stable but potentially threatened

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:

Look for spotted salamanders near stagnant water like swamps, ponds, and seasonal pools of water or vernal pools. They may be hiding under trees, leaves and other debris.



Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles are the animals in the class Reptilia, a paraphyletic grouping comprised of turtles, crocodilians, squamates and rhynchocephalians. They are cold-blooded vertebrates with dry skin covered with scales or bony plates and usually lay soft-shelled eggs. Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrates that don't have scales. They live part of their lives in water and part on land.

Where?
You may spot reptiles and amphibians at both Camp Country Center or Camp Todd.

Reptile and Amphibian Facts

- Reptiles and amphibians together are called herpetofauna, or “herps” for short.
- Cold-blooded animals must regulate their body heat through interactions with their environment (i.e. turtles basking in the sun, lizards moving in and out of shade, etc.).
- Amphibians are particularly sensitive to pollution because their permeable skins easily absorb toxins.
- Boas and Pythons are the only herps to give birth to live young.
- The most toxic (poisonous) amphibians are usually the most brightly colored, to warn potential predators.
- Most amphibians have an egg-larva-adult life cycle and go through the process of metamorphosis.
- Over half of all frog species are in danger of extinction.
- Venomous snakes have hollow fangs filled with venom.

Canada Goose

Common Name: Canada Goose

Scientific Name: *Branta canadensis*

Diet: Herbivore



The Canada Goose is one of the best known birds in North America and the largest breed of goose in the world. They are found in every contiguous state and Canadian province, and are adaptable to many habitats and thrive wherever grasses, grains or berries are available.

Females usually lay 3 to 9 eggs. When they mate, Canada Geese mate for life and can live as long as 20 to 25 years.

Just 50 geese can produce 2.5 tons of excrement in a year.

Population Status: Abundant

Find Me At:
☑ Camp Country Center
☑ Camp Todd

What to look for:

When flying, Canada geese flocks use a wedge or V-shape formation and make loud, honking noises. Recognize them by their long, straight necks and white U-shaped band on their rump.

What to listen for:



Eastern Wild Turkey



Common Name: Eastern Wild Turkey

Scientific Name: Meleagris gallopavo

Diet: Omnivore



Benjamin Franklin wanted the US National Bird to be a turkey, as it was one of only two domestic birds native to the Americas. Wild turkeys forage on forest floors, grasslands and swamps. They have excellent eyesight, hearing and can run very quickly. They can fly and sometimes sleep in trees.

By the early 20th century, wild turkeys were almost extinct due to hunting and disappearance of their woodland habitats. They were relocated to areas with recovering woodlands through reintroduction programs in the 1940s and are now stable and increasing.

Turkeys go by many names. Male turkeys are called “toms” or “gobblers” and female turkeys are called “hens”. Chicks are called “poults” and young turkeys are called “jakes” and “jennies”.

Population Status: Stable and increasing

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Barn Swallow



Common Name: Barn Swallow

Scientific Name: Hirundo rustica

Diet: Carnivore/
Insectivore



Barn Swallows are the most widely distributed and abundant swallow in the world, recognizable by its deeply forked tail feathers. They visit open waters, wetlands and farm fields from spring to autumn.

Barn Swallows migrate as far as 5,600 miles each winter. They can be very protective of their nests and will screech an alarm call and swoop at anything deemed a threat.

Barn Swallows build a nest of mud and plant materials, securely fastened to the wall of a barn or shed or the underside of a pier or bridge.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:



Blue Jay



Common Name: Blue Jay

Scientific Name:
Cyanocitta cristata

Diet: Omnivore



Blue Jays are highly adaptable and intelligent birds and are a familiar, noisy songbird with their blue, white and black feathers. They are known to imitate the calls of hawks, letting other jays know that a hawk is around or deceive other species into thinking a hawk is present.

Blue Jays travel in loose flocks near shorelines and fly across open areas one at a time. They can be commonly found at bird feeders or birdbaths.

Blue Jays sometimes store acorns in the ground and may fail to retrieve them, aiding in the spread of forests and oak trees.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to listen for:



What to look for:



American Bald Eagle



Common Name:
American Bald Eagle

Scientific Name:
Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Diet: Carnivore



The Bald Eagle is the United States National Bird and inhabits every U.S. state except for Hawaii, but most can be found in Alaska or Canada. Benjamin Franklin thought it was a poor choice for the national bird because of its “thieving tendencies”.

Bald eagles are not actually bald. The old English word “Balde” means white, which refers to the white feathers that cover their heads and tails. As juveniles, these feathers appear brown and turn white as they approach 4-5 years old.

Bald eagles were almost extinct in the U.S. in the mid-1900s due to hunting, habitat destruction, and DDT (a pesticide that contaminated the fish and caused weakened eggshells for eagles). Banning DDT and intense population management has led to population recovery and an official removal from the endangered list in 2007. Population has quadrupled since 2009.

Population Status: Stable and increasing

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to listen for:



What to look for:

If you find partially eaten fish near the shoreline, it was likely carried away and eaten there by an eagle.



North American Osprey



Common Name: Osprey

Scientific Name: *Pandion haliaetus*

Diet: Carnivore



The Chesapeake region is home to the largest concentration of nesting osprey. They arrive in early March and remain here until they migrate south for the winter in mid-August. Estimates place the Bay's current osprey population at 8,000 - 10,000 breeding pairs. Osprey can be found on every continent except for Antarctica.

Ospreys are good fishers and can usually be found near ponds, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways. They hunt by diving to the waters surface and using the gripping pads on their feet to help them pluck fish from the water with their curved claws and carry them for great distances.

Osprey population was threatened through the use of toxic pesticides like DDT in the mid-1900s. Since then, restoration efforts have helped populations recover.

Population Status: Stable and increasing

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:

Northern Cardinal



Common Name: Cardinal

Scientific Name: *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Diet: Omnivore



The Northern Cardinal is the official bird of 7 U.S. states (including Virginia!) and is easily recognizable by its bright red color. Only male cardinals have the red feathers, though. Females are tan/gray. Cardinals generally live in gardens, backyards, and wooded areas.

Cardinals are songbirds and sing a variety of melodies.

Male cardinals can be very territorial and aggressive. They have been reported to fly into glass windows due to "charging" an intruding bird that is really just their own reflection.

Population Status: Stable

Find Me At:

- Camp Country Center
- Camp Todd

What to look for:



What to listen for:

