

# all about Raccoons

*Procyon lotor*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Raccoons are a nocturnal species native to North America. They breed from January-March and give birth to 2-5 kits after ~60 days. They have enhanced tactile senses on their hands and forearms, which help them search for prey on land and in water.

## Habitat



Rural raccoons prefer dense woodlands. In urban spaces, they can be found in burrows, abandoned buildings, and sewer systems.

## Diet



They are omnivorous, eating both animal and plants. Their diet consists of insects, bugs, and fruiting plants. They will consume human subsidies (pet food, leftover food waste).

## Morphology

Raccoon bodies are gray-brown in color with black and gray ringed tails and black eye masks. They also have unique dexterous fingers that are able to grasp items similar to a human hand.

Weight: 10 - 23lbs

Height: 12"

Length: 24 - 38"



Did you know...

raccoons can make more than 50 different noises?

# all about Coyotes

*Canis latrans*



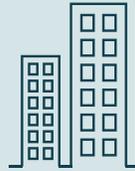
Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Coyotes are a common canid species in North America. They are typically active at dawn and dusk, but can be seen during the day. In areas with high human activity, they become more nocturnal. Coyotes are monogamous and mate Dec - Feb.

## Habitat



They thrive in urban and rural habitats and are found in prairies, forests, deserts, and shrublands. They prefer edge habitat but seek shelter in near-by cover.

## Diet



Coyotes are opportunistic hunters, consuming small mammals and rabbits. They eat carrion (dead animals) and fruiting plants. In urban areas, they consume human food waste and pet food.

## Morphology

Color can range from light gray to black, with red tints on their extremities. Coyotes have narrow snouts and sharply pointed ears.

Weight: 15 - 40lbs

Height: 24"

Length: 3 - 4'



## Did you know...

coyote vocalizations are so complex many people mistake one coyote for an entire pack?

# all about White-tailed Deer

*Odocoileus virginianus*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



White-tailed deer are native to North America. They are typically crepuscular but can be seen throughout the night or day. They breed Oct-Dec. Does (female deer) give birth to 1 -2 fawns in late spring or early summer.

## Habitat



They can be found in urban, suburban, and rural areas. White-tailed deer live in areas that have a mixture of grass and wooded areas.

## Diet



They are seasonally depended herbivores. In spring and summer, they eat green, fruiting plants and berries. In the fall and winter, they feed on nuts, acorns, and agricultural products (corn and soybeans).

## Morphology

Males and females have differing physical characteristics. Male deer (bucks) grow antlers every year, while females do not. Fawns are born with white spots on their backs and sides. Adults are a light brown color, with white tails, chinstraps, and stomachs.

Weight: 155 - 203lbs

Height: 40" at shoulder

Length: 4 - 7'



Did you know...

deer have four compartments in their stomach?

# all about Virginia Opossums

*Didelphis virginiana*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Virginia opossums are a nocturnal species native to the eastern United States and some parts of Mexico. They are the only marsupial in North America, meaning they have a pouch to carry their young. They also have prehensile tails to help grab branches.

## Habitat



They prefer forested or heavy brush areas. They like to den in rock crevices, hollowed trees, and under buildings and porches.

## Diet



They are an omnivorous species that eats carrion, plants, and insects. In urban areas, they also eat human subsidies like trash, pet food, and food waste.

## Morphology

Their body is a white to dark grey color, with a white face and black legs. They have a hairless, muscular tail, a pouch located on their stomach, and round black ears.

Weight: 2 - 15lbs

Height: 6 - 10"

Length: 21 - 36"



Did you know...

Virginia opossums have the most teeth of any North American mammal?

# all about Red-tailed Hawks

*Buteo jamaicensis*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Red-tailed Hawks are a predatory species that can be found across North America. They soar high above ground and perch on high objects to search for their prey. They nest in trees and are known to build/refurbish nests with the same mate for life.

## Habitat



Red-tailed Hawks are known to thrive across North America. They can inhabit grasslands, deserts, woodlands, and mountainous regions.

## Diet



Mammals such as rabbits, squirrels, and mice make up a majority of their diet. They also eat smaller birds and reptiles.

## Morphology

From above, Red-tailed Hawks have a mottled brown body with bright red-orange fanned tail feathers. Their body is mostly white from below, but their distinct red-orange tail is still visible .

Weight: 24 - 51 oz

Height: 17.7 - 25.6"

Wingspan: 44.9 - 52.4"



Did you know...

female Red-tailed Hawks are 25% heavier than males?

# all about Blue Jays

*Cyanocitta cristata*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Blue Jays are song-birds native to the eastern United States. They mate for life and have complex social structures. Their head crests and vocalizations help them to communicate with others.

## Habitat



Blue Jays are common in both urban and suburban areas but prefer areas with oak trees and forest edges.

## Diet



Blue Jays are omnivorous, consuming both insects and plant material (seeds, nuts, and fruits). They may also eat injured small vertebrates.

## Morphology

Blue Jays are known for their bright blue and white pattern. They also have a head crest and a black pattern around their head.

Weight: 2.5 - 3.5 oz

Height: 9.8 - 11.8"

Wingspan: 13.4 - 16.9"



Did you know...

Blue Jays mimic the calls of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks?

# all about American Robins

*Buteo jamaicensis*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



American Robins are a song-bird that is found across North America. During the fall and winter, they spend more time in groups. During the spring, males will sing to attract females. They build their nests on tree branches and lay 3-5 baby blue eggs.

## Habitat



American Robins can be found in lawns, forests, tundras, and fields. During the winter, they are more commonly seen in wooded habitats.

## Diet



The American Robin's diet consists of invertebrates and fruits. During the summer, they eat insects and fruiting plants.

## Morphology

American Robins are characterized by their black heads, gray wings, and bright orange colored breast. They have yellow beaks and white ring around their eyes.

Weight: 2.7 - 3 oz

Height: 7.9 - 11.0"

Wingspan: 12.2 - 15.8"



Did you know...

Robins are often seen tugging worms straight out of the ground?

# all about Northern Cardinals

*Cardinalis cardinalis*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Northern Cardinals are song-birds native to the eastern United States and parts of Mexico. To forage, they hop along the ground. They use their head crests to communicate with each other. They build nests on small branches, which hold 2-5 eggs per season.

## Habitat



Cardinals can be seen in both urban and suburban areas. They thrive in areas with a mixture of open fields and dense shrubby material.

## Diet



Their beaks are thick and built for cracking seeds and fruit, but they will also supplement their diet with insects.

## Morphology

Male are bright red with a black face and bright orange beak. The females are dull brown color with a black face and bright orange beak. They both have head crests.

Weight: 1.5 - 1.7 oz

Height: 8.3 - 9.1"

Wingspan: 9.8 - 12.2"



Did you know...

Northern Cardinals are the state bird of seven states?

# all about Brown Thrashers

*Buteo jamaicensis*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Brown Thrashers are a song-bird found in the southeast United States. The majority of their time is spent hopping on the ground searching for food. In spring, they are known to defend their nests from predators like snakes, mammals, and birds of prey.

## Habitat



Brown Thrashers thrive in areas with lots of thick brush. They can also be found along forest edges in urban areas, parks, and in backyards.

## Diet



Their diet consists mostly of insects, but they will also supplement their diet with seeds and fruits .

## Morphology

Brown Thrashers have a cinnamon-brown upper body, with a white chest covered in deep brown streaks. They have bright yellow eyes.

Weight: 2.1 - 3.1 OZ

Height: 9.1 - 11.8"

Wingspan: 11.4 - 12.6"



Did you know...

Brown Thrashers are the state bird of Georgia?

# all about Red-bellied Woodpeckers

*Buteo jamaicensis*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Red-bellied Woodpecker are native to the eastern United States. They can be seen perched on the sides of trees, where they use their beak to bore into trees searching for food. Males use the sound of drilling into trees to attract a mate. They build nests in tree cavities.

## Habitat



They can live in forests and wooded urban areas. They are more commonly found in wetlands.

## Diet



Their diet consists mostly of insects, spiders, and other invertebrates that live on or in trees. They may also eat seeds or nuts in the winter months.

## Morphology

Red-bellied Woodpeckers have a bright red cap on their head, with black and white mottled wings and a white chest and face. They have a long black beak for drilling into trees.

Weight: 2.0 - 3.2 oz

Height: 9.4"

Wingspan: 13.0 - 16.5"



Did you know...

Red-bellied Woodpeckers don't have red bellies?

# all about Eastern Kingsnakes

*Lampropeltis getula*



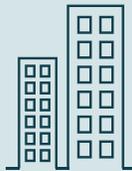
Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Kingsnakes are constrictors and primarily fossorial, meaning they spend most of their time underground. When threatened, they emit a musky odor and mimic a rattlesnake by shaking their tail against leaves.

## Habitat



Kingsnakes can live in rural, to urban habitats. They can often be found near bodies of water or hiding under sidewalks, porches, tree stumps, or leaf litter.

## Diet



Kingsnakes are immune to the venom of other snakes. Because of this, they readily prey upon copperheads and rattlesnakes as well as small rodents, turtles, and lizards.

## Morphology

Eastern kingsnakes are black with white to yellow chain-like striping around their body, but patterning can vary widely with individuals.

Weight: 4lbs

Length: up to 5'

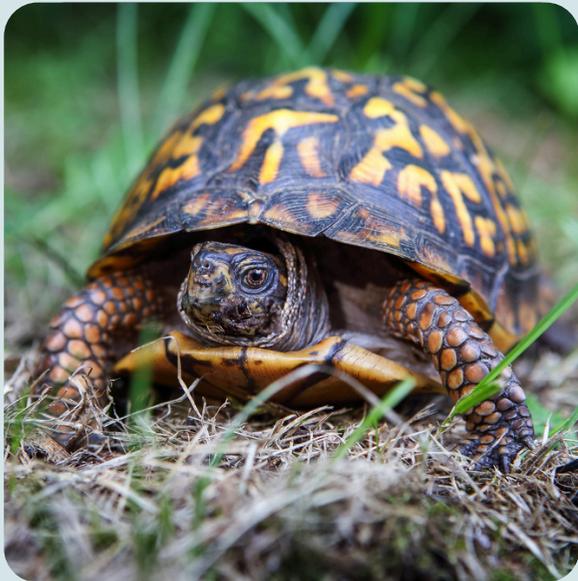


Did you know...

kingsnakes eat venomous snakes?

# all about Eastern Box Turtles

*Terrapene carolina carolina*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Unlike most turtles, Eastern box turtles live on land with a home range less than 2 acres. They are active in Georgia from Apr - Oct. To protect themselves from predators, they have a hinged plastron (bottom half of the shell) that closes their head inside for protection.

## Habitat



Box turtles live in a variety of habitats, including forests and grasslands. They are also common in urban areas such as backyards and parks. They spend much of their time under logs, porches, or leaf litter.

## Diet



They are omnivores and eat both plant material and invertebrates.

## Morphology

Box turtle shells and legs can be various shades of brown with orange and yellow patterning. Males have bright red or orange eyes. Females have dark red or brown eyes. Box turtle shells are highly domed or bowl-shaped.

Weight: 4lbs

Length: up to 6"



Did you know...

it is illegal to harvest or keep box turtles as pets in Georgia?

# all about Red-eared Sliders

*Trachemys scripta elegans*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Red-eared sliders are commonly found basking in groups on logs or rocks. When approached, they will quickly slide into the water, hence their name. These turtles are slow on land but fast in water. They lay eggs on land and hatchlings head straight to the water.

## Habitat



Red-eared sliders are native to North America, but have become invasive in Western and Central Europe. They can be found in urban habitats and prefer bodies of water with muddy bottoms.

## Diet



They are omnivores and will eat anything from aquatic plants to small fish.

## Morphology

Most adults have a dark brown or green shell with yellow and red markings. They get their name from two red patches of skin on either side of their head. As they get older, these yellow and red markings may fade.

Weight: 8.5 oz

Length: up to 10"



Did you know...

these turtles can live up to 30 years?

# all about Green Anoles

*Anolis carolinensis*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Green anoles are diurnal lizards. Males defend their territories by displaying a bright pink throat pouch and making a push-up motion. During the summer, females lay one egg at a time every two weeks in soil or leaf litter.

## Habitat



Anoles are highly adaptable and live in various habitats across the Southeast. They are arboreal (spend most of their time in trees). In urban areas they can also live on fences, walls, and roofs.

## Diet



Anoles are carnivores and eat invertebrates, including insects, spiders, and worms.

## Morphology

Anoles can change color! Their skin can be dark brown to bright green depending on the color and temperature of their surroundings. Their tails are two-thirds of their total body length, and they have specialized toe pads that allow them to climb easily.

Weight: 0.07 - 0.2 oz

Length: up to 8"



Did you know...

anoles lose their tails if threatened?

# all about American Toads

*Anaxyrus americanus*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



American toads are a nocturnal amphibian. They have high site fidelity, meaning they tend to use the same areas to rest and hunt every day. Toads do not cause warts in humans, but they do release a toxin when threatened that can irritate human skin and eyes.

## Habitat



American toads are widely distributed across the Eastern US. They can live in urban to rural habitats, including forests and grasslands. Although as adults they are terrestrial, they need to live near water to lay their eggs.

## Diet



American toads eat invertebrates, including insects, spiders, and worms. In urban areas, toads will use porch lights to hunt.

## Morphology

American toad coloration can vary widely among individuals, but most adults are gray to brown with red, yellow, and orange patterns across their backs.

Weight: approximately 0.74 oz

Length: up to 4"



Did you know...

American toads pee when threatened?

# all about Spring Peepers

*Pseudacris crucifer*



Population Status:  
Least Concern

## Natural History



Spring peepers are a nocturnal amphibian and spend most of their time on the ground hiding under leaves or sticks. They are rarely seen but can often be heard in the evening and at night. Their call sounds like a high-pitched whistle.

## Habitat



They live in forested areas near water sources. In urban areas, they can live near creeks, ponds, or large puddles in backyards, parks, and other small patches of greenspace.

## Diet



As tadpoles, they eat primarily algae. As adults, they eat insects and spiders.

## Morphology

Spring peepers are tan to brown with an imperfect 'x' stripe on their back. Their undersides are lighter in color than their backs.

Weight: approximately 0.032 oz

Length: up to 1.5"



Did you know...

peepers can make sounds as loud as a lawn mower?