

Field Guide

Animals and plants of the
Water Wigglers Learning Path
South Hero, VT

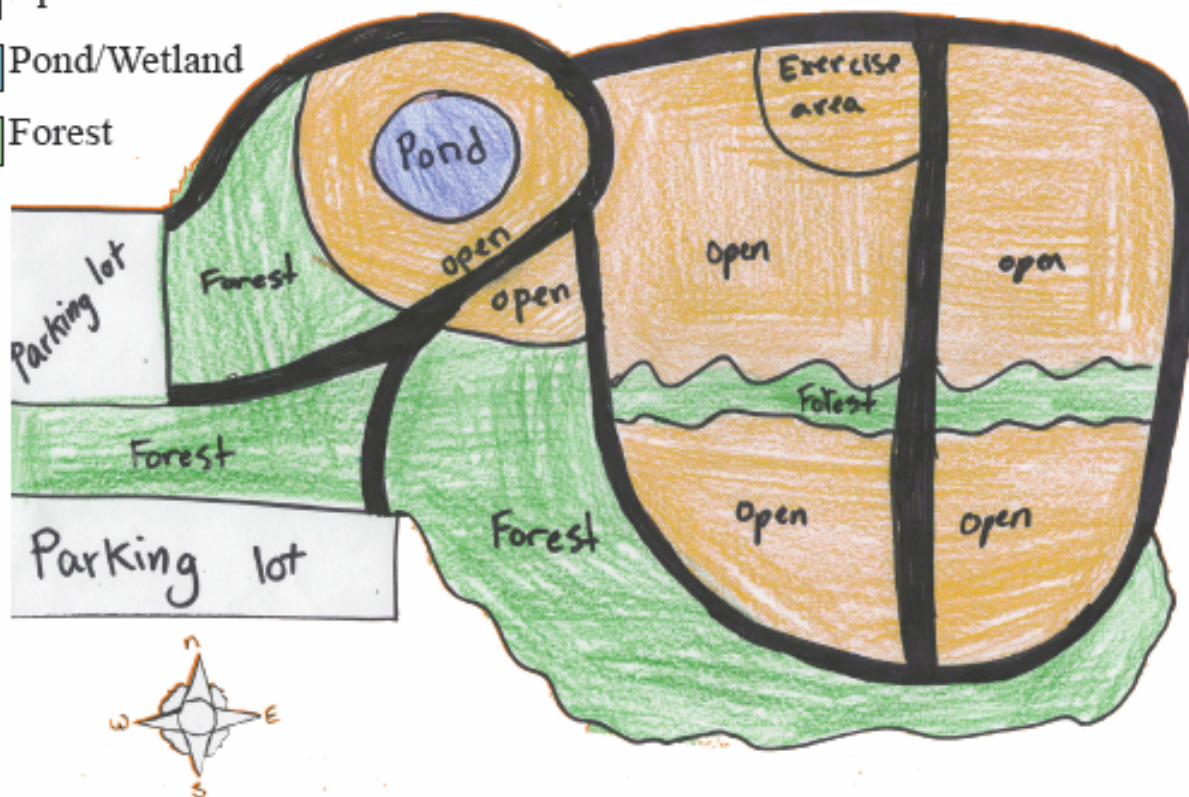


Created by the 2019 7th & 8th grade classes at
Folsom Education and Community Center in coordination
with South Hero Land Trust

Habitat Key

Each species has a colored box that matches with a color in the map below, indicating their preferred habitat.

-  Open/Meadow
-  Pond/Wetland
-  Forest



Wildlife Scavenger Hunt

Can you find the animals and plants listed in this guide? Mark the habitat box next to each species you've found. Animal signs count too: Hear a bird? Find scat? See tracks? - Count it. Try and complete all three levels:

- Junior Naturalist:** Find 1 bird, 1 mammal, 1 plant, and 1 amphibian
- Budding Botanist:** Find 6 or more plants
- Master Naturalist:** Find All 24 species

BIRDS



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Bobolink

Bobolinks have a black chest with bright yellow on their head. They nest only in fields and meadows. They have experienced a 73% decline since 1967.

Fun Fact: Studies show that an early hay cut with a break of two months before the next harvest may allow Bobolinks to successfully breed in managed fields.



Kristof vt/ Wikimedia Commons

■ American Robin

Black/grey head and red/orange belly. Most robins migrate south because of resources rather than temperature, but some stick around and trust they can live of the scarce resources.

Fun Fact: The American Robin usually the last bird song you can hear as the sun sets.

■ Barred Owl

This owl has a beautiful unique design of black and white stripes. It's signature call sounds like "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you at all?" During the day, the barred owl roosts in shady mature forests, usually on a limb next to the trunk of a tree.

Fun Fact: Barred owls will be attracted to campfires, because they know that they can find bugs to eat flocking around the fire.



Mdf/Wikimedia Commons



MDF/Wikimedia commons

■ American Goldfinch

Yellow body, black head, and black wings with white stripes. They eat sunflower seeds, thistle, and other seeds. They are most noticed in summer but live in Vermont year-round.

Fun Fact: They burrow under the snow to keep warm in the winter.

■ Hermit Thrush

The hermit thrush is a small brown bird, with a spotted chest, and a reddish tail. It's population in Vermont is stable and increasing.

Fun Fact: The Hermit Thrush is Vermont's state bird.



Matt MacGillivray/ Wikimedia Commons

PLANTS



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■ Goldenrod

Goldenrod is a tall perennial with thin leaves and branching clusters of lots of small, stalked, yellow flower heads at the top of the plant. There are many different types of goldenrod.

Fun Fact: Did you know the scientific name of goldenrod “Solidago” originates from Latin word “solidare” which means “to make whole”?

■ Red clover

Dark pink flowers and alternate leaves with three leaflets (but sometimes four!) The red clover is commonly used to feed cattle, it belongs to the legume family, and is also edible. It has deep roots which allow it to withstand drought.

Fun Fact: The Red Clover is Vermont’s state flower.



Ivar Leids/Wikimedia commons



i_am_jim/Wikimedia commons

■ Queen Anne’s Lace

Multiple smaller clusters of small white flowers form an umbel, with a purple dot in the middle. Dries up into what looks like a “birds nest.”

Fun Fact: The flower is named for Queen Anne, consort of King James I- stories say she pricked her finger and stained some lace with a drop of blood, hence the dot in the middle of the flower.

■ Spear Thistle

The Spear Thistle has a purple flower with dark green leaves, with stiff hairs above the stem and white woolly under parts and stem looks like there are spikes on it.

Fun Fact: The spear thistles other name is a bull thistle.



Dominicus Johannes Bergsma Wikimedia Commons



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■ Eastern Cottonwood

Also known as poplar. A large tree with heart-shaped leaves. Their trunks grow to over 5 feet in diameter. Every June, Cottonwood trees release a cotton-like substance everywhere- attached to each cottony strand is a seed!

Fun Fact: Cottonwoods and related aspens have a unique flat stem, which causes them to quake in the wind.

■ Jewel-Weed

The leaves are egg shaped. The leaves are about 1" long. There is a fruit pod in each flower that explodes when it is ripe. They dangle from a long stock. They are very colorful.

Fun Fact: Any contact to the flower causes it to explode into seeds.



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MPF/ Wikimedia Commons

■ Horsetail

This plant is all green. The Field Horsetail doesn't have a blossom or seeds, but it can be easily identified by its bamboo-like single stems. It commonly grows in very large patches, so it is easy to find.

Fun Fact: The rhizomes are used by Native Americans to weave baskets.

■ Broadleaf Cattail

The broadleaf cattail is tall and skinny. It's green leaves attach from the main stalk.

At the top of the stem there is a cluster of brown seeds resembling a corn dog.

Fun Fact: Cattails are edible. Only harvest if you know how to do it safely and sustainably.



Petritap/ Wikimedia Commons

MAMMALS



Airwolfhound/Wikimedia Commons

■ Red Fox

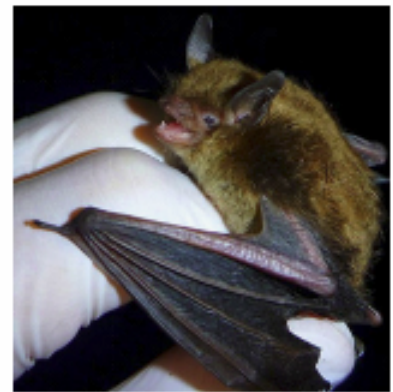
Red foxes are normally reddish with white on their bellies. Their red bushy tail is mixed with black hairs and the tips are white. Pups are born between March and April.

Fun fact - The red fox is the biggest fox out of the fox family.

■ Little brown bat

The Little brown bat weighs between 7 and 9 grams, and has a wingspan of between 25 and 27 cm. Their population is declining rapidly in Vermont due to White Nose Syndrome.

Fun Fact: In the spring, little brown bats form huge nursery colonies.



SMBishop/Wikipedia Commons



J. Glover/ Wikimedia Commons

■ Porcupine

Porcupines are nocturnal animals. They have soft hair and sharp quills. They live in forests and deserts, and on rocky outcrops and hillsides.

Fun Fact: Porcupines can't shoot out their quills, but they are easily released when predators touch the porcupine.

■ Gray Squirrel

Their fur is grey on top and white on bottom. They eat a variety of nuts, like acorns, hickory nuts, and beechnuts. They live in mostly oak tree forests.

Fun Fact: Squirrels are born in litters of 2-4 and are born blind.



■ Snowshoe Hare

Snowshoe Hares can be found in many different colors. They have larger feet than most hares. In summer they are usually brown, and in winter they change to white.

Fun Fact: Snowshoe hares only stay pregnant for 37 days(a little over one month) on average.



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Dcoetzee/Wikimedia Commons

■ White-Tail Deer

3-3 ½ ft tall. Male weight 75-400 lb. Female: 50-250 lb. They have a white under belly with a brown fur coat on top and their famous white under tail.

Fun Fact: Male deer shed and regrow their antlers every year.

■ Raccoon

Stout short bodies with flat feet, broad head, pointy nose and round ears. They have a bushy striped tail and a black mask of fur on its face. They weigh around 23 lbs and live 2 to 3 years.

Fun Fact: Raccoons have some of the most dexterous hands in nature. The English word racoon comes from the Powhatan word *aroughcun*, which means “animal that scratches with its hands.”



garyjwood/Wikimedia Commons



Gilles Gauthier/Wikimedia Commons

■ Eastern Chipmunk

Found in the Northeastern United States. Known for having a white stripe bordered by black on each side. Habitats: Forest, Plains/Field

Fun Fact: Research suggests they make different alarm noises for different predator species.

AMPHIBIANS

■ Eastern Newt

When young; orange red with bumpy skin When adult; olive green with bright yellow belly.

Fun Fact: They live on land when young (about 8 years!), and in water when adult.



Jason Quinn/Wikimedia Commons



Contrabaroness/Wikimedia Commons

■ Green Frog

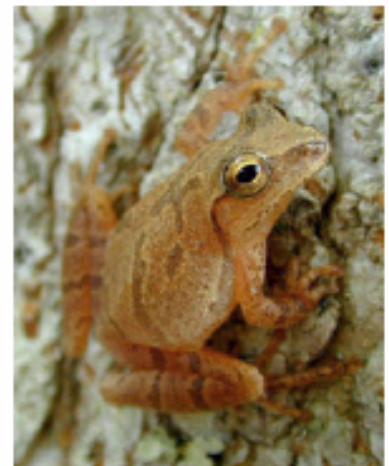
The Green frog has a mostly greenish-brown body and some black dots with a white underbody.

Fun Fact: Green frogs call throughout the day and night and have up to 6 different calls.

■ Spring Peeper

White to cream colored stomach and a gray back. They are known for their camouflage. They spend most of their time on the ground. Spring Peepers make a lot of noise in the spring because that is there mating season. Spring Peepers eat mainly small insects

Fun Fact: When all the Spring Peepers peep a predator can't find a certain one.



USGS/Wikimedia Commons

Sources

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