

Critter Cards

White-tailed Deer

(*Odocoileus virginianus*)

[Graphic] A photo of a white-tailed deer buck and doe standing in a field of grass.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I live in forests, fields, and neighborhoods where I can feed on a variety of plants, nuts, and fruits.

Reproduction: My babies, called fawns, are born in May and June. They have spots when they are born to help them hide.

Fun Facts: I have great eyesight; however, I am color blind.

Adaptations: I can run up to 35 miles per hour and will raise my white tail to tell other deer there is danger nearby. I am able to jump over high fences and may be seen in backyards and neighborhoods.

Keep Me Wild By... leaving my fawns alone if you see them hiding. I will come back to care for them when no one is around.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Deer.

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Coyote

(*Canis latrans*)

[Graphic] A close up photo of a coyote with vegetation in the background.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I can survive in almost any habitat, including backyards and cities, and can be found throughout Michigan!

Reproduction: I have 4 to 7 pups in the spring.

Fun Facts: I am a member of the dog family. I am a skilled hunter and like to eat mice and voles.

Adaptations: I make many different sounds to communicate with other coyotes. I am usually shy and will run away from people. You may not know I live in your neighborhood because you might not see me. I can be active day and night.

Keep Me Wild By... removing bird feeders from your yard and yelling at me. If you scare me, I will be less likely to visit.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife.

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Red Fox

(*Vulpes vulpes*)

[Graphic] A close up photo of a red fox kit sitting in tall green grass.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I live near open grassy areas, and may even be seen in neighborhoods.

Reproduction: I have 1 to 9 pups in a den each spring.

Fun Facts: I have excellent hearing that helps me catch mice and voles under the snow.

Adaptations: I often use dens made by other animals. I am usually shy and will run away from people. I am very good at catching mice, voles, and small birds to eat.

Keep Me Wild By... removing bird feeders from your yard and yelling at me if you see me. If you scare me, I will be less likely to visit.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Raccoon

(*Procyon lotor*)

[Graphic] A close up photo of a raccoon sitting in a tree.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I prefer spaces with trees for shelter, and can make my home in many different places, including backyards and cities.

Reproduction: I have an average litter size of 4 babies every spring.

Fun Facts: I communicate using hisses, whistles, screams, growls, and snarls.

Adaptations: I am an excellent climber and a strong swimmer. I am not a picky eater and will eat a lot of different foods like fruits, nuts, plants, frogs, and even eggs! I am good at taking advantage of food people may leave outside.

Keep Me Wild By... removing pet foods and trash from your yard so I will be less likely to visit.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Striped Skunk

(Mephitis mephitis)

[Graphic] A close up photo of a striped skunk walking through dried grass.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I can be found in forests, fields, and even backyards!

Reproduction: I can have 2 to 10 babies in the spring. You may even see them follow me when we leave the den.

Fun Facts: I can spray my smelly musk up to 10 feet away! Look out, even my babies can spray!

Adaptations: I use other animal burrows or natural hollows under trees and buildings for my den. Grubs, bees, and berries are some of my favorite foods. I may dig up grass to search for tasty bugs that are hiding underneath.

Keep Me Wild By... putting up fencing around decks or sheds where you don't want me hiding.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Fox Squirrel

(Sciurus niger)

[Graphic] A photo of a fox squirrel sitting on a broken wooden fence post with grass and a tree branch in the background. Photo by: C. Adam Bump.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I live in forests, parks, and neighborhoods that have plenty of trees for me to climb.

Reproduction: I have 1 to 7 babies and may have multiple litters a year.

Fun Facts: I use a variety of sounds to communicate including barks, chatters, distress screams, and high-pitched whines.

Adaptations: I like to visit bird feeders because they provide me with an easy food source. I also may search for food in flower beds and yards. I am active during the day and am not very territorial so I share my space with other squirrels.

Keep Me Wild By... removing bird feeders from your yard if you don't want me to visit.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Eastern Garter Snake

(*Thamnophis sirtalis*)

[Graphic] A close up photo of an eastern garter snake coiled on a rock. Photo by: Jim Harding.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I can survive almost anywhere – fields, wetlands, woods, parks, and backyards! I am the most common Michigan snake and can be found statewide.

Reproduction: I usually give birth to 6 to 50 live babies in the summer.

Fun Facts: My tongue is red with a black tip!

Adaptations: I lay in the sun during the morning hours to keep my body warm. I like to eat worms, frogs, and small mammals. If I am scared, I may release a smelly musk to protect myself, or I may try to bite. I have markings that help me blend in with my surroundings.

Keep Me Wild By... leaving me alone if you see me.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Wild Turkey

(*Meleagris gallopavo*)

[Graphic] A photo of a turkey hen in a field of dry grasses.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I like to live in open fields and woods. I nest on the ground, but roost high in trees.

Reproduction: I don't really build a nest. I simply scratch a small depression in the ground using leaves and plants from the nesting area. I lay 4 to 17 eggs each spring.

Fun Facts: I can run up to 19 mph for short distances, and when I need to, I can swim!

Adaptations: I am a strong flyer, and I can easily fly over high fences. I like to eat a variety of foods like plants, insects and seeds. I may visit your neighborhood while searching for food.

Keep Me Wild By... removing bird feeders from your yard so I will be less likely to visit.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Turkey

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Woodchuck/Groundhog

(*Marmota monax*)

[Graphic] A photo of a woodchuck standing on gravel.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I live in many different places like fields, forests, and backyards.

Reproduction: In the spring I have 3 to 5 pups.

Fun Facts: I am called a groundhog or a woodchuck.

Adaptations: I am skilled at digging dens. I usually make a summer den and a winter den, where I hibernate. Other animals like to move into old dens I have made. I like foods like clover and dandelions which can often be found in backyards and parks. In the winter, there isn't much to eat so I hibernate in my den until it is spring. In fact, I am usually still sleeping on groundhog's day!

Keep Me Wild By... putting up fencing to keep me out of places you don't want me.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Cooper's Hawk

(*Accipiter cooperii*)

[Graphic] A photo of a Cooper's hawk perched on a tree branch with other trees in the background.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I live in forests and open woodlots as well as neighborhoods and cities with plenty of trees.

Reproduction: I usually lay 2 to 6 pale blue eggs in my nest each spring.

Fun Facts: As a male, I am smaller than a female. I also build the nest and bring food to the female and chicks.

Adaptations: I am a quick and very agile flyer. I fly through tree branches at top speeds when hunting my favorite food: medium sized birds. I am often seen hunting at bird feeders because I can find small birds to eat there.

Keep Me Wild By... removing bird feeders from your yard so I will be less likely to visit.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

American Toad

(Anaxyrus americanus)

[Graphic] A close up photo of an American toad.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I am a common toad that can be found throughout Michigan. I am often seen in woodlands, gardens, and backyards.

Reproduction: I lay my eggs in small woodland ponds or shallow waters in the spring.

Fun Facts: I can lay 2,000 to 20,000 eggs each spring!

Adaptations: Insects are my favorite food. I eat many insect pests that may be in your garden. I protect myself from predators with a bad taste on my skin, but I do not cause warts on people. When cold weather comes, I dig backwards into the dirt for shelter.

Keep Me Wild By... leaving me alone if you see me.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Virginia Opossum

(Didelphis virginiana)

[Graphic] A close up photo of a Virginia opossum.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I like to live in areas where I can find trees, like forests and even neighborhoods.

Reproduction: I am a marsupial which means I carry my newborn babies in a pouch!

Fun Facts: I have 50 teeth!

Adaptations: Since I like to come out at night, you may not see me. If I get scared or encounter a threat, I pretend to be dead so I don't get eaten. I eat just about any kind of food that I find including things like frogs, birds, small mammals, fruit, and insects.

Keep Me Wild By... removing pet foods and trash from your yard so I will be less likely to visit.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Canada Goose

(*Branta canadensis*)

[Graphic] A photo of an adult Canada goose floating in the water with two goslings.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I can be found in lakes, rivers, ponds, and wetlands.

Reproduction: I build my nest on the ground near water and line it with my downy feathers. I lay 3 to 8 eggs each spring.

Fun Facts: In late June and early July I molt, or replace, all of my flight feathers. I cannot fly well during this time, and I am often very aggressive toward people and other creatures to protect myself.

Adaptations: I like to visit farm fields where I gobble up leftover grain and corn in the fall. I also like to eat the short grass found in parks and golf courses. These places are also good spots to raise my young because the open space makes it easy to watch for predators.

Keep Me Wild By... not feeding me! Feeding me could make me sick.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Mallard

(*Anas platyrhynchos*)

[Graphic] A photo of a male mallard in breeding plumage floating on the water.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I can be found in almost any body of water. I often take advantage of man-made and quiet park ponds.

Reproduction: I make my nest on the ground, close to water. I may lay 1 to 13 eggs and could have two broods in a year.

Fun Facts: I am a strong flier and can fly as fast as 55 miles per hour.

Adaptations: I often find places to nest near buildings or homes where I think I'll be safe. Garden and flower boxes are sheltered spots where I may lay my eggs. I have excellent camouflage, making it hard to see me when I am on my nest. I may nest away from water, but don't worry – I know where to take my babies to find water once they hatch.

Keep Me Wild By... not feeding me! Feeding me could make me sick.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Little Brown Bat

(*Myotis lucifugus*)

[Graphic] A photo of a little brown bat hanging upside down in a cave.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I like to live in wooded areas, and sometimes buildings, near bodies of water.

Reproduction: I give birth to one pup per year during June or July.

Fun Facts: I hibernate in caves and old mines during the winter months when there are no insects to eat.

Adaptations: I am a skilled flier and can see very well. At night, when I am out hunting for insects, it is dark and hard to see so I use echolocation to find my food. I am an important predator of mosquitoes and other insect pests.

Keep Me Wild By... putting up houses for me so I will be less likely to roost in buildings.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Cottontail Rabbit

(*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

[Graphic] A photo of a cottontail rabbit sitting on snowy ground.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I can be found in bushy areas near meadows, backyards, and on the edge of forests.

Reproduction: I have an average litter size of 4 babies and can have up to 4 litters per year.

Fun Facts: I try to escape from predators by running in a fast zig-zag pattern.

Adaptations: I have excellent vision, hearing, and sense of smell. Gardens and flower beds are places for me to find food, like grasses, clover, and other plants I like to eat.

Keep Me Wild By... leaving my babies alone if you find my nest. I will come back to care for them when no one is around.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

American Black Bear

(*Ursus americanus*)

[Graphic] A photo of an adult female black bear with a cub standing in the grass.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I live in forests but travel through many different types of habitats in my search for food.

Reproduction: I give birth in January or February, while I am in my den. I have 1 to 5 cubs every other year.

Fun Facts: At birth, a bear cub weighs less than a pound. I have black or extremely dark brown fur.

Adaptations: Because I like to eat green vegetation, berries, seeds, and insects, I hibernate during the winter when these foods are not available. I have an excellent sense of smell.

Keep Me Wild By... taking down your bird feeders and bringing in your trash so I don't visit your yard looking for food.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

American Robin

(*Turdus migratorius*)

[Graphic] A photo of a robin standing in a grassy lawn.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I am at home in backyards, gardens, and parks as well as more wild areas like woodlands and forests.

Reproduction: I nest multiple times a year and lay 3 to 5 eggs each time. My eggs are sky blue with no markings.

Fun Facts: I am the state bird of Michigan. Robin's egg blue is a color named for the hue of my eggs. I am often the first bird you hear singing in the morning.

Adaptations: I have excellent eyesight that helps me see insects in the grass. I am commonly seen eating worms, insects, and berries in backyards, gardens, and parks throughout the United States

Keep Me Wild By... leaving my nest and babies alone if you find them.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.

Painted Turtle

(*Chrysemys picta*)

[Graphic] A photo of a painted turtle sitting on a log.

[Graphic] Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife Logo

Habitat: I am a common turtle that can be found all over Michigan. I survive in many different habitats, but prefer shallow ponds, lakes, and marshes with muddy bottoms.

Reproduction: I tickle my female mate with my long front claws during courtship. She will bury 4 to 20 eggs in a sunny spot early in the summer.

Fun Facts: I am the state reptile of Michigan.

Adaptations: Because I have no teeth, my jaw has tough, horny plates for gripping food like insects, tadpoles, small fish, and plants. I spend most of my time in or near the water. I can tuck my head and legs into my shell if predators are near.

Keep Me Wild By... leaving me in the wild! I do NOT make a good pet.

Learn more about me at Michigan.gov/Wildlife

[Graphic] Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo.