



Zionsville Parks Field Guide



About This Field Guide

This Zionsville Parks Field Guide was created by Zionsville Parks & Recreation's summer 2024 class of Junior Indiana Master Naturalists. This is a program through the Indiana DNR for kids ages 9 – 12. Jr IMN teaches kids about Indiana natural history and encourages them to take an active role in protecting natural resources through community service. This group spent several of their service hours researching, collaborating, and putting together this field guide on their own. It is the hope of Zionsville Parks & Recreation that this guide can be an asset to the community and help residents connect with the ecosystem, while also show the hard work of the kids in our program.



Summer 2024 Junior Indiana Master Naturalists

What Are Birds Of Prey?

Birds of prey are birds that usually hunt on vertebrates. They are a relative of the hunter. They have good eyesight and are also called a raptor. The feet have talons and can grasp prey.

Examples of Birds of Prey in Zionsville

- Red Tailed Hawk
- Red Shouldered Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Broad Winged Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Northern Harrier
- American Kestrel
- Mississippi Kite
- Owl variations



Cooper's Hawk

Male Cooper's Hawks are smaller than females. They prey on smaller birds. They catch them by surprise, not speed.



Sharp-shinned Hawk

An American Kestrel is the smallest Falcon in Northern America, weighing 3-6 ounces. A small Kestrel's weight is 34 pennies! Fun fact, American Kestrels do not build nests.



The small American Kestrel.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is the smallest hawk in the USA and Canada. They have long legs, short wings, and long tails.

BIRDS OF PREY

Birds of Prey in Zionsville



A Red-Tailed Hawk is a bird of prey found in Zionsville. It is a robust bird. Its flying speed is 20-40 miles per hour.

A Bald Eagle's eyesight is 8x better than an average human's eyesight. They are awesome swimmers.

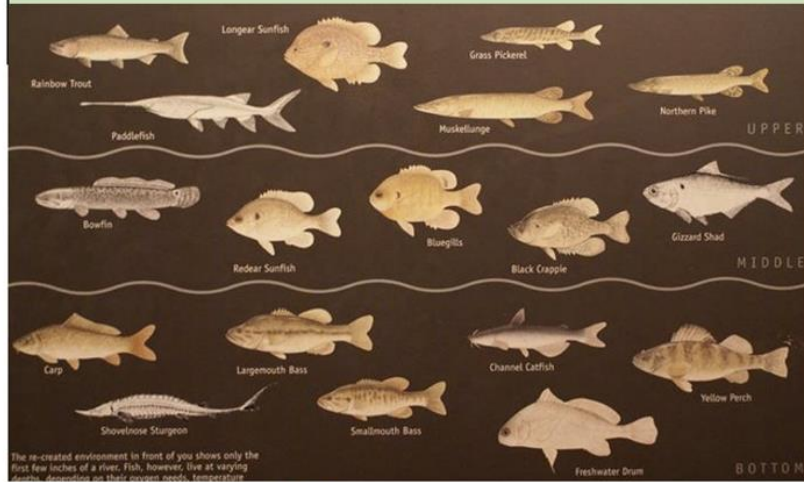


This is a Mississippi Kite. It is not as common as other birds of prey in Zionsville.

The Mississippi Kite have pointed wings and are a good flier. They fly great distances to migrate.



Fish To Look Out For!



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Some of the most common Indiana fish that you can find in Indiana include the Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Smallmouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Spotted Bass, and the Black Crappie. You may find these fish in rivers and lakes in Zionsville parks.

More information about these fish are on the next slide!



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This is a Largemouth Bass. They are usually a light green with a white belly and a silver line down the middle!
(as shown in the above picture)

Fish of Zionsville Facts

Largemouth Bass- likes to stay in deeper water, like lakes.

Bluegill- prefers to live under vegetation and debris and/or close to the banks.

Smallmouth Bass- likes to stay in deeper water, like lakes.

Channel Catfish- prefers lakes or deep rivers.

Spotted Bass- stays in deeper water, like lakes.

Black Crappie- stays in submerged plants and debris in lakes.

What do fish in Zionsville eat?

They like to eat immature insects, adult insects, fish eggs, and smaller fish.



Fish Facts!!

Fish never close their eyes, and they also don't have tear ducts or eyelids! Indiana is home to 208 species of fish.



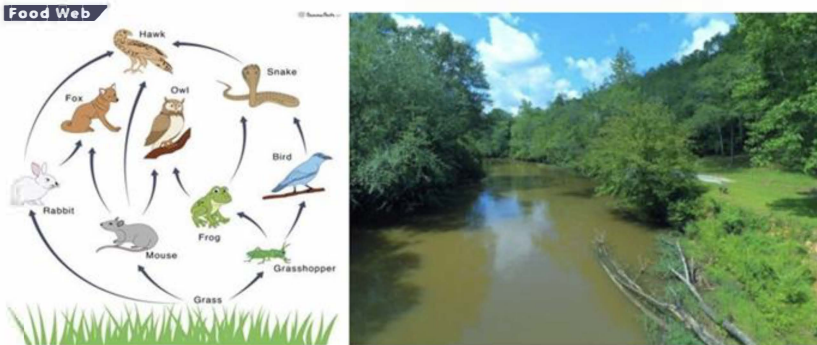
Did you know that fish have teeth in their throat?

Habitats and Ecosystems

There are many ecosystems and habitats in Indiana.

Here in Boone County, habitats include the forest, the creek, and the wetlands.

Animals here at Overlay-Worman Park depend on these for shelter, food, water, and space. Birds, turtles, fish, amphibians, snakes, and different mammals live here.



Wetlands: The wetlands are home to many animals, such as frogs, fish, and other reptiles and amphibians. Algae and insects provide food for the fish and other fish can eat them. This is an example of a healthy ecosystem.

Forest: Many diverse animals live in the forest. This habitat is a group of trees that provide shelter, food, and space for many animals. These can include raccoons, opossums, deer, squirrels, cardinals, and bluejays. This is a healthy ecosystem that supports lots of wildlife.

Creek: A nice thing to know about the creek is that there are crayfish, tree frogs also they eat crickets and fly this whole park has a healthy ecosystems which includes the creek. It's a good habitat because it has water, food, shelter, and space. They depend on the creek because of the basic needs of wildlife.

Fun fact:

Overlay-Worman
Park used to be a
clean-fill landfill.

Insects



Types of Insects

There are multiple types of insects like dragonflies and beetles. Some insects have wings as a mode of transportation or a quick getaway.

Habitats of Insects

Habitats of insects are very different, just like the types of insects. They can live in almost any area such as the tropical forests, mountains, and more.



Prey of Insects

Every insect has a different diet or appetite. Ants eat almost anything. The ants eat leaves, fungus, nectar, fruits, vegetables, sugar, other insects, lizards, amphibians, and insect eggs but they are just one of many insects!



Dangerous Insects

There are very dangerous and poisonous insects across the world, such as the wasp or the black widow. They can affect an animal that is 10 or more times larger than them. Also, they can be venomous, so watch out!

Snakes of Indiana

Common food for snakes

Most snakes eat mice, frogs, and tadpoles.



Common snakes

Some of the common snakes in Indiana are the Eastern Garter Snakes, Gray Rat Snakes, Northern Water Snakes, and the DeKay's Brown Snakes.

Common homes for snakes

Most snakes live in cool dark habitats, such as under wood and in crevices.



Common Snakes of Indiana

Northern Water Snake

The Northern Water Snake ranges from 30 to 40 inches in length.



Gray Rat Snake

The Gray Rat Snake ranges from 42 to 72 inches in length.



DeKay's Brownsnake

The DeKay's Brownsnake ranges from 9 to 13 inches in length.



Eastern Garter Snake

The Eastern Garter Snake ranges from 18 to 54 inches in length.



Turtles of Indiana



Turtles live in different habitats with water, mud, and shade.

Deserts are too hot for turtles but here in Indiana it is cooler.



There are two types of turtles, land turtles and water turtles. They are both cold blooded.

It is our duty too take care of the turtles and other animals of Indiana.

We would really like it if you could help us protect the turtles by not littering, cleaning pollution, and conserving habitats.

The Eastern box turtle

WHAT IS THEIR DIET?

The Box Turtles diet is an omnivore.
This includes berries, worms, fungi, and more!



The Eastern box turtle has a black shell with yellow patterns. The Box turtle's spine is connected to their shell.

HABITAT

Box turtles can be found in multiple habitats. From dry hot habitats to moist humid habitats. It also lives in open woodlands and forests like our Zionsville parks.



DID YOU KNOW:
The Box turtle
can live to be 120
years old!

Water Birds



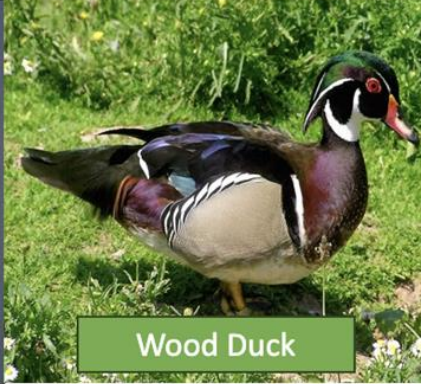
Great Blue Heron



Canada Goose



Great Egret



Wood Duck

These birds are water birds that can be found in Zionsville. They are very common in this area. Water birds like to eat fish, berries, and bugs. They can be found in a lot of parks that we have in Indiana. They can also be aggressive animals to help defend themselves.

There are many water birds in Zionsville, such as geese, multiple duck species and the Great Blue Heron.

The Great Blue Heron has a grey and blue body, a white head, and black stripes over the eyes.

Female mallards are a light brown and a dark brown. The male mallard has a green head.



Water Bird Habitats

These birds live in lakes, ponds, creeks, steams, and more. These homes have dirty water and a lot of fish to feed on.



Mallard Duck

Mallards can fly up to 70 miles per hour and take off!



THANK YOU!