



Canada goose

- Males are called Ganders and females are called Geese
- Males are very territorial and will charge at nearly anything over triple their size, like an Elk. So, WATCH OUT when you are near one!
- Geese migrate to where the most food is available and will fly in a V-formation.
- Geese take turns being the 'point' of the V
- In addition to a "flock", a group of geese are also called a "chevron" because of the V shape they make in the air!



Mallard duck

- Males are called Drakes and females are called Hens
- They are slow on land but swim fast and fly faster
- A group of flying ducks are called a flock while a group of swimming ducks are called a sord



Bald eagle

- Bald eagles mostly eat fish compared to small mammals. They use their magnificent eyesight to see from all the way up in the sky! To catch their prey, they swiftly swoop down and grab with their sharp talons.
- Bald Eagles are no longer endangered but are still threatened
- Bald Eagles are not bald. They just have white feathers on their head!
- Their nests can be up to 13 feet deep and 8 feet wide!



Turkey vulture

- They never build nests! Instead, they lay their eggs on the ground!
- They can live up to 20 years old
- Heads are featherless because it is easier to eat their already-dead meals!
- Turkey vultures are considered to be "nature's garbage worker" because they are scavengers; meaning that they eat animals that are already dead! They NEVER kill their prey.



Rock pigeon

- These birds are so smart that they understand the concept of time!
- They are so good at navigating that they were used to deliver messages and help soldiers navigate in WWI and WWII



Red-tailed hawk

- As a bird of prey, Red tailed hawks hunt and eat small animals. They mostly eat mammals compared to fish. They can also eat reptiles, birds, and insects. Just like all birds of prey, they have amazing eyesight and can see from high up on the tallest trees and can swoop down up to 100 miles per hour!
- You probably have heard their famous, "SKREEAWK," in movies and TV shows! It is very distinct and loud.



Woodpecker

- They have very long tongues to scoop up any bugs
- They never get headaches despite jackhammering their heads into treebark



Mourning dove

- These doves get their common name because their call sounds like someone who is sad and in "mourning"



Robin

- They are known for their light blue eggs
- Many robins roost together in the same tree; up to 200,000 robins can live in the same tree!



Blue Jay

- They rub ants on their feathers to "rub off" an acid they secrete before they eat them. It is believed that they do this because the acid tastes bad to them!

- They can mimic different calls from other birds.
- They collect paint chips and it is believed that they do this because paint has calcium. You can help them get more calcium and stay away from paint by putting out crushed eggshells for them!

Northern Cardinal



- Males are territorial and will make a loud warning call to tell others to "stay away!" They are so territorial that they might mistake their own reflection as another cardinal and try to fight it!
- Cardinals are protected by the Migratory Bird Act; meaning, no one can kill nor keep one as a pet.
- Males can sing up to 200 different songs per hour



Red-winged blackbird

- They are very territorial
- They lay their eggs in marshy areas and sometimes they put their eggs in cattail plants



American crow

- Crows are able to remember human faces
- A group of crows is called a "murder"
- Crows are one of the smartest birds in the Northeast

- These birds do not migrate
- They like to be close to humans due to easy access to food
- These sparrows are very adaptable! Some have been found to live in a coalmine that is about 2000 feet deep!

House sparrow



Catbird

- These birds get their name from having a call that sounds like a cat meowing
- Catbirds also can mimic other calls



Chipmunk

- They can find up to 165 acorns a day
- They store their acorns in cheek pouches
- A group of chipmunks is called a "scurry"



Opossum

- Opossums are different than possums! Possums are in Australia and look more like a squirrel than an opossum
- They are marsupials; meaning, they carry their young in a pouch. Opossums are the only marsupials in the U.S.

Groundhog



- Groundhogs do not actually predict the weather
- Their warning call is a sharp whistle; this gives them a nickname of "whistle pig"
- Their underground burrows home multiple groundhogs! It is like a little town down there!
- Another name for Groundhog is Woodchuck

Cottontail rabbit



- They build their nests to look like their surroundings. It is so hard to see, that humans need to be very careful when doing yard work
- Cottontail rabbits run in zig-zags to confuse predators
- They can run up to 18 miles per hour!

Black Bear



- The smallest bear species
- They prefer fruit and herbs, but will also eat fish
- They have small claws to help them climb trees

Raccoon



- They have a keen sense of touch; up to 5 times more than a human!
- Raccoons are problem solvers and think outside of the box. One study showed that they successfully tried different methods and tools, such as stones, to grab food out of reach.

Gray Squirrel



- Squirrels run in zig-zags to confuse predators
- They can lose stored nuts to thieves; so they sometimes pretend to bury nuts to fool future thieves!
- Their legs are double jointed to help them swiftly run up trees

Beaver



- Beavers are nocturnal
- Their front teeth never stop growing so they need to file them down by chewing on wood
- They have poor eyesight compared to their other senses, but they can see underwater due to clear eyelids!



Bobcat

- They are rarely seen during the day because they are mostly active from dusk to dawn.
- Their tracks are easy to distinguish compared to other animals with paws because their "palm" makes the shape of an "M"



White-tailed deer

- They are most active during dawn and dusk
- Are actually great swimmers!
- They have great eyesight and hearing compared to humans! They can hear the leaves crunch under your feet if you are not quiet!



Skunk

- Their stripe points to their sprayer
- Before they spray, they perform a warning dance
- Their spray is very flammable



Otter

- Groups of otters hold hands or cling on to each other while sleeping and eating to prevent any separation between families
- Some otters have favorite 'food cracking rocks' that they always carry with them



Tulip tree



Oak tree



Sassafras Tree



Maple Tree





Northern water snake

- These snakes are very territorial and will attack if threatened! But don't worry too much, they are not venomous!
- They like being social with one another in the fall and spring

Garter snake



- These snakes are venomous but their venom does nothing to humans
- They prey on mice, frogs, and other small animals
- They are preyed upon by bears, raccoons, hawks, and other big predators



Ringneck snake

- They grow up to about 30 inches
- Their bright orange coloration around their neck and belly tell predators, "I do not taste good!"



Copperhead snake

- Their venom is mild and usually nonfatal to humans; however you should still see a doctor if you get bit!
- When threatened, Copperheads secrete a substance that smells like cucumbers
- They can live up to 18 years!
- They hibernate in the winter



Wood turtle

- These turtles are an endangered species
- They love basking in the sun



Red-eared slider

- These turtles are an invasive because they are popular as pets. Please do not release them back into the wild!
- These turtles are more common than native turtles
- They can live up to about 50 years in captivity



Snapping turtle

- They do not have to breathe for up to 6 months during hibernation!
 - Their necks are almost as flexible as a snake's
- Do not approach a snapping turtle, their bite can crack bones!



Box turtle

- When threatened, they will retract into their shell
- They hibernate during the winter in stream bottoms, old mammal burrows, or holes from tree stumps.



Eastern Hellbender

- Hellbenders live deep underground in wetlands
- They are the third largest salamander in the world
- They are Pennsylvania's State Amphibian



Red-spotted newt

- They are only present in healthy wetlands!
- They love eating pesky insects like mosquitoes



Northern red salamander

- They have glands that secrete a toxin to make predators not want to eat them
- They have tongues that can catch prey in milliseconds!



Northern two-lined salamander

- They are active in the winter and hide in underground streams
- They are also good indicators of healthy wetlands. They are most threatened by runoff



Northern spring peeper

- They love eating small bugs
- Their calls in late winter tell humans that spring is soon on its way!



Bullfrog

- They can live up to about 8 years old
- Bullfrogs jump and impressive 6 feet high!



Eastern American toad

- They drink water by absorbing it on a pouch on their belly
- No, touching a toad will not give you warts!



Gray treefrog

- They are indicators of good habitat!
- They are most active at night



Brook trout



Brown trout



Pumpkinseed



Bluegill



**Poison
ivy**



Sycamore tree



Bass



Rainbow trout



White pine

An Evergreen tree with groups of 5 long needles coming out of one node on the branch.



Eastern Hemlock tree

- The Eastern Hemlock is the Pennsylvania State Tree
- They are ever green and have very small needles and cones!



Spruce

Spruces are evergreen trees. Though they look similar to fir trees, an easy way to tell the difference is shake the branch. Fir needles are soft and won't hurt your hand, spruces are spiky and will prick your hand



Ginkgo

- The Ginkgo is known as the world's oldest species of tree

- Ginkgos are known for their beautiful golden leaves in the autumn
- Female Ginkgos have a very unpleasant smelling fruit!



Rhododendron

A commonly found shrub in PA, rhododendrons are related to mountain laurels. They love rocky soils.



Fir Tree

Firs are evergreen trees. Though they look similar to spruce trees, an easy way to tell the difference is shake the branch. Fir needles are soft and won't hurt your hand, spruces are spiky and will prick your hand



Staghorn sumac tree

- Staghorn sumacs are often mistaken for the poison sumac, which is an invasive species
- The flowers of the Staghorn can be made into a tea that tastes like pink lemonade



Mountain laurel

- The Mountain Laurel is the Pennsylvania State Flower!
- Their leaves can be evergreen
- Do not use any part of the plant to build a fire! The smoke will give you a choking sensation