

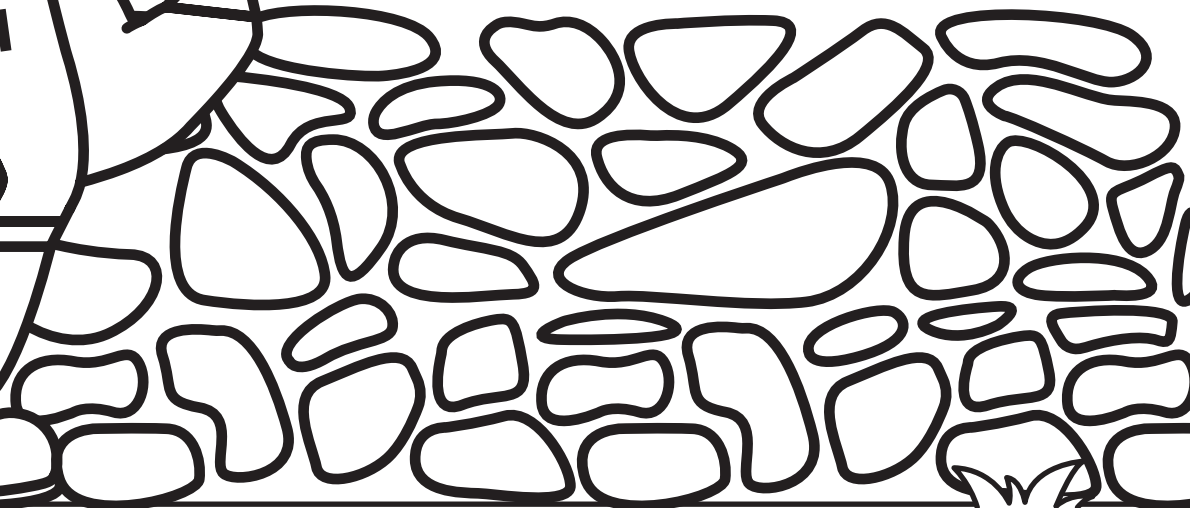


# **Junior Naturalist Program**

**10 and Up**



**Welcome to  
Oklahoma  
State Parks!**



# **A Note to Parents & Guardians:**

# **Welcome to**

# **Oklahoma State Parks!**

Thank you for allowing your child to participate in the Oklahoma State Parks Junior Naturalist Program! This program is a special opportunity for your child to learn about and help protect Oklahoma's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

There are two parts to the Oklahoma State Park Junior Naturalist Program. Part One is for children 10 and under to become a Junior Naturalist Park Steward. Part Two is for children 10 and up to become a Junior Naturalist Park Interpreter. Even if your child is 10 and up but has not completed part one, they can still complete it and become a Junior Naturalist Park Steward too! If your child is 10 or under, they have a chance to grow with Oklahoma State Parks and become a Junior Naturalist Park Interpreter as they get older. After completing both parts of the Junior Naturalist Program and reaching the age of 16 or older, your child can then become a Volunteer Naturalist.

This booklet outlines the general requirements for attaining the title "Junior Naturalist Park Interpreter" for children 10 and up. Though all state parks participate in the program, not all state parks offer the necessary Junior Naturalist training sessions year-round. Please contact the Park Manager, Park Naturalist, Park Interpretive Specialist, or the Park Ranger to obtain a current schedule of training opportunities that are offered at their state park.

In order to obtain the designation of Junior Naturalist Park Interpreter, you need to complete educational and service elements which are described in this booklet. Each state park will have its own specific list of programs and service projects.

Upon completion of the general requirements for this program, your child will be added to the list of official Oklahoma State Park Junior Naturalist Park Interpreters. Your child will also receive a Junior Naturalist, Park Interpreter certificate and bison patch in honor of their hard work and willingness to protect and preserve Oklahoma State Parks.

**As Park Pal would say,**  
**"Protect our parks, they depend on You!"**



**This Junior Naturalist, Park Interpreter  
Handbook belongs to:**

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Junior Naturalist in Training

# What's In This Booklet?

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# Steps to become a Junior Naturalist Park Interpreter

1

Complete this Junior Naturalist Park Interpreter booklet.

2

Attend any type of program offered at an Oklahoma State Park. Fill out page 35 after attending the program.

3

Complete one service project at an Oklahoma State Park. Fill out page 36 when the service project is accomplished.

4

Remember – “Help a Critter – Don’t Litter!”

# Become a Park Pal too!

1

Want to help keep our parks clean and protect wildlife habitat?

2

Join Park Pal on some park adventures by completing the Park Pal coloring and activity book.

3

Also become a "Clean Team" member just like Park Pal!

4

Take the "Clean Team" pledge and sign the Park Pal pledge card to become an official Park Pal and "Clean Team" member.

5

Need any help? Just ask a State Park Employee, they are the Real Park Pals.

# Safety Tips

## At the Park

- Use all tools (hatchets/knives) safely and with supervision.
- Before hiking, tell someone where you are going; take along a buddy.
- Look both ways before crossing any road in the park.
- *Be extra careful near a lake or stream; do not step into the water.*

## On the Water

- Always swim in designated swimming areas; always swim with a buddy.
- Never swim around boat ramps.
- Always wear a life jacket while boating or riding on a jet-ski.
- Do not stand up in a boat while it is moving.
- *If the boat overturns on the lake, hold onto it until help arrives.*

## Fire Prevention

- Build fires in designated areas only. Do not step on coals; they may be hot.
- Do not leave your campfire unattended.
- Put out fires with water. If water is not available, use soil to cover the fire.
- Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving the park.
- If a person's clothing is on fire – STOP, DROP, and ROLL!
- *Carry fire extinguishers in all motorboats and recreational vehicles.*

## Weather Watch

- When arriving in the park, ask the Park Ranger or Park Manager where to go in case of severe weather.
- Watch for changes in the weather and have a radio handy. If you are in a boat and a storm is approaching, immediately head for shore.

## Park Rules & Park Courtesy

- Do not pick up plants, wildflowers, and rocks. Do not try to catch park animals. Enjoy plants and wildlife by observing them and taking pictures, not collecting them.
- Do not feed wildlife; to stay healthy and safe, wildlife should not eat human food.
- Keep your pet on a leash, no longer than 10 feet, while in the park. This protects you, your pet, and park wildlife.
- Do not cut down tree limbs or harm trees. They are important for the park and are home for many animals.
- *Be courteous to your park neighbors. Remember quiet time is 11pm-6am!*

**Thank you for staying safe & caring about  
Oklahoma State Parks!**



# History of Oklahoma State Parks & CCC/WPA

1933 was a year that would change Oklahoma for the better. While this was the height of the Great Depression, the newly elected president at the time, Franklin D. Roosevelt, needed to get the American's economy back going again. To do that, Roosevelt created a new program that would create numerous jobs—the New Deal.

This program was designed to give jobs to men that were without a job during the Great Depression. With the New Deal Program, groups of young men from ages 18–25 created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933, and groups of local community members, usually men but sometimes women, created the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935. The goal for the CCC was to work on conservation projects, which usually consisted of creating parks. The goal for the WPA was to work on projects that would create long-term community benefit, which also usually consisted of creating parks. Together, these two alphabet programs, at the time, played a vital part in creating different parks across the U.S. for a little less than a decade.

1933 was an important year within the New Deal Program. It was the year that state parks were started in Oklahoma. As the first seven original state parks were created in Oklahoma, the CCC, with the help of the WPA, partnered with the National Parks Service (NPS) to create “rustic” architectural park buildings, water pump houses, keystone-arched bridges, and more that were made with native stone and lumber found in and around each park, thanks to Herbert Maier and the NPS architecture team.

Out of the seven original Oklahoma State Parks, Lake Murray State Park was the very first to be created thanks to \$90,000 of legislative appropriations that was approved by Oklahoma's governor at the time, William H. “Alfalfa Bill” Murray, after whom the first park is named. These appropriations were used to purchase 16,500 acres of land that was thought to be unfit for agriculture. These 16,500 acres—and an additional 2,700 acres that was acquired in 1947—made Lake Murray State Park the largest state park in Oklahoma, a distinction it still holds today.

1933– 1937: Four years was the amount of time it took to create all seven original Oklahoma State Parks. Robbers Cave State Park, Boiling Springs State Park, Osage Hills State Park, Quartz Mountain State Park, Beavers Bend State Park, and Roman Nose State Park were the other six original Oklahoma State Parks that followed the creation of Lake Murray State Park (roughly in that order). In 1937, Oklahoma State Parks became a division under the Oklahoma Planning and Resource Board (OPRB).

OPRB was then renamed to be the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD) in 1972, with Oklahoma State Parks remaining as a division under the department. But before the OPRB was renamed, roughly thirty more state parks were created in the 1950s and '60's. Today, there are nearly three dozen.



# Tips for Viewing Wildlife

## Be Quiet.

Quick movements and loud noises scare wildlife.

## Be Patient.

Walk a little way, then stop, watch and listen.

Look during the **Right Time** of the day. Most wildlife is active in the early morning and late evening.

Look in the **Right Places**. Look for wildlife in their preferred habitats (the places they like to live). One good place is where a forest connects with a grassy meadow or field. This type of place provides wildlife with food as well as a place to hide. Also, look near water!

Watch for wildlife during **Good** and **Bad Weather**. Many animals are especially active before and after a storm.

Use field guides to help identify wildlife. Binoculars or spotting scopes will help you see wildlife better.

## Be Respectful.

Wildlife will stay in an area if they are not disturbed. Do not feed or try to handle wildlife. Keep all pets on a leash while in a state park. Cats and dogs are instinctive hunters; they may chase or kill wildlife. By putting your pet on a leash, you also protect it from the possibility of being bit by a raccoon, opossum, or skunk. Wildlife can give your pet diseases that can cause them to die.

Respect others who might also be watching wildlife. If you get too close to wildlife, you can ruin everyone's chance to view it.

# Wildlife of Oklahoma State Parks

Oklahoma is a great place to observe wildlife. Our state has many lakes, ponds, and streams. Oklahoma has forests and prairie grasslands, and these habitats provide homes for many different kinds of animals. Migratory birds stop in Oklahoma long enough to rest and to eat. Some birds spend their winters in Oklahoma. Other birds only stay in Oklahoma during the spring and summer months.

The following list identifies animals that live in Oklahoma throughout the year, as well as a few kinds of birds that are only here during certain seasons. Many of these animals are found in any Oklahoma State Park. To help observe them, watch out for wildlife tracks and other clues that help you discover what might be around. Wildlife tracks are most easily seen along a lake shore or on trails after a rain. Use the following wildlife tracks—and a few sensory clues—that are paired with some of the animals below to help you in your mission to view wildlife, in addition to the previous tips, while you are visiting any Oklahoma state Park.

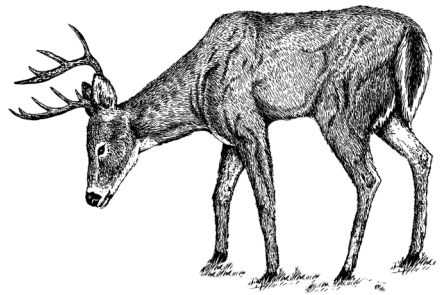
***Remember: before searching for wildlife tracks, always tell an adult where you are going. Take along a buddy too!***



# Wildlife of Oklahoma State Parks

## White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

By the early 1900s, nearly all of Oklahoma's white-tailed deer had been killed by hunters. Since that time, through the combined efforts of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, landowners, sportsmen, and other government agencies, Oklahoma now has many white-tailed deer in every part of the state. White-tailed deer feed on acorns, leaves, grains, tender shoots, and grasses. They are most active in the early morning, at sunset, and at night. Look for their tracks on trails and along the shoreline of ponds and creeks. White-tailed deer use the white underside part of their tail to signal when danger is present. Fawns are usually born in May. If you find a fawn, back away from it, and do not touch it. Although you may not see her, the fawn's mother is nearby.



### Deer Tracks



Hoof prints are slender and pointed. A few other clues to identify a deer include a medium pile of pellet droppings, a line of leaves eaten off the lower branches of a tree—this is called a deer browse line—and any scrapped or shredded tree bark. That is done by male deer, or bucks, rubbing their antlers on the tree to establish territory.

## Raccoon *Procyon lotor*

The raccoon is easily recognized with its black masked face and furry ringed tail. It will eat almost any type of food including nuts, berries, crops, bird eggs, insects, mice, frogs, fish, and crawdads. Where it can, the raccoon also will feed on picnic scraps and from the food bowls of cats and dogs. Raccoons are most active at night. They normally make dens in hollow trees and live in various habitats as long as water is nearby.



### Raccoon Tracks



A raccoon track has five toes on front and hind feet. Raccoon scat, or poop, can be found piled up on fallen logs, large rocks, or stumps that raccoons use as latrines.

## Striped Skunk *Mephitis mephitis*



This furry mammal is a member of the weasel family. The skunk is not aggressive, but if alarmed, it is quick to defend itself using a strong-smelling spray. It feeds on insects, worms, fruit, bird eggs, and small animals. Primarily a nocturnal animal, it may follow the smell of food into a campground at night. One of the skunk's enemies is the Great Horned Owl. This large owl has no sense of smell, so it does not care if it gets sprayed.

### Skunk Tracks

A strong, musky smell and small cat-like scat, with insect parts and seeds, can tell you a skunk may be nearby.



## Opossum *Didelphis virginiana*



The Virginia Opossum is North America's only marsupial, or pouched mammal. It is about the size of a cat, gray in color with a white face, and has a long hairless tail. The opossum lives in hollow trees or logs, in rock crevices, or under buildings. Opossum feed on fruits, insects, small animals, and garbage. Not an aggressive animal, the opossum has several ways of dealing with danger. It may climb a nearby tree, stand its ground by hissing and showing its teeth, or "play dead".

### Opossum Tracks

Front and hind feet have a "big toe" which slants away from the other toes. Curled scat that looks similar to dog poop might also be a sign that an opossum is nearby.



## Beaver *Castor canadensis*



The American Beaver is the largest rodent in Oklahoma. Adult beavers can weigh 30 to 50 pounds. The beaver spends most of its time in water, only coming onto land to rest, rear its young, and feed. It cuts down trees that it uses to build a dam across a stream or to construct a beaver lodge. In Oklahoma, beavers also may make a den in the bank of a lake or creek. Beavers eat leaves, twigs, and bark from kind of bush or tree that grows near water, but they prefer

cottonwood, willow, sweetgum, and pine trees. They live in family groups usually numbering about four to eight beavers. They are most active at night, in early morning, and at dusk. Beavers warn each other of danger by slapping the water with their paddle-like tails.

### Beaver Tracks

Near water, beavers will gnaw the bark off the bottom of trees and cut down small trees with their teeth, leaving sharp pointed stumps. You might find a beaver's lodge in the middle of a pond or its tunnels in the bank of a lake or creek





## Squirrel *Sciurus*



Oklahoma has three kinds of squirrel. The most common is the Fox Squirrel, which is reddish in color. The Eastern Gray Squirrel, which is smaller than the Fox Squirrel, lives in eastern Oklahoma. Both of these squirrels are acrobats, using their tails for balance. The Southern Flying Squirrel is nocturnal—which

means it is only active at night—and glides from tree to tree. Webs of skin between its front and back legs act like a parachute. All these squirrels feed on acorns, hickory nuts, and seeds, though if given an opportunity, they will eat bird eggs and baby birds. Squirrels make their homes in hollow trees. They also make leaf nests where they take daytime naps.

### Squirrel Tracks

Squirrels can be heard in a tree whenever they make any chirping, barking, or buzzing noises. They may make these noises if they see you to let other squirrels know you are a potential predator. They may even sit and stare at you if they do not know if you are a threat to them or not.



## Bobcat *Felix rufus*



A relative of the housecat, the bobcat is found throughout Oklahoma. Its back, sides, and upper tail are pale to reddish-brown with black spots. It has small tufts of fur on its ears and black on the tip of its tail. Although not usually weighing over 25 pounds, the bobcat is a fierce hunter. It feeds on rabbits, rodents, and ground-nesting birds, like quail and wild turkey. It also preys on young deer. The bobcat can be active both day and night, but it primarily hunts during the hours of dawn and sunset. The female bobcat seeks a hollow log or rock overhang in which to make its den.

### Bobcat Tracks

Bobcat tracks are more rounded than that of a coyote; claws do not extend from paw prints. When there are scrapes on the ground near some scat that looks like dog poop, or the scat is partly covered up like a domestic cat, a bobcat could have been in the area.



## Coyote *Canis latrans*



The coyote may be light gray, brown, or reddish in color and is about the size of a German Shepherd dog. The coyote has been known to mate with the domestic dog. It often makes its den underneath a large tree or under a rocky ledge. The coyote is very vocal and may often be heard barking, yapping, or howling at the moon. The coyote is able to live near man, even near large cities. While it mostly hunts rabbits, rodents, ground-nesting birds and deer, the coyote will also raid a farmer's chicken house or kill sheep and calves. The coyote has learned that food may also be found in garbage cans.

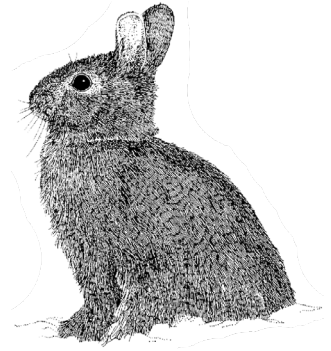
### Coyote Tracks

Tracks similar in size to a large dog; nails extend out from paws. Rope-like scat that contains hair and bones can also be a sign of a coyote nearby. Listen for a group of coyotes, or pack, howling nearby at night!



## Cottontail Rabbit *Sylvilagus floridanus*

The cottontail is Oklahoma's most common wild rabbit. It lives where there is plenty of food and places to hide, like a thicket or brush pile. The cottontail feeds on grasses, clover, seeds, crops and the bark of trees. Because many predators hunt rabbits, the cottontail has strong legs for a fast escape. It also has excellent eyesight and hearing. The female cottontail often places its young in shallow depressions in a grassy meadow.

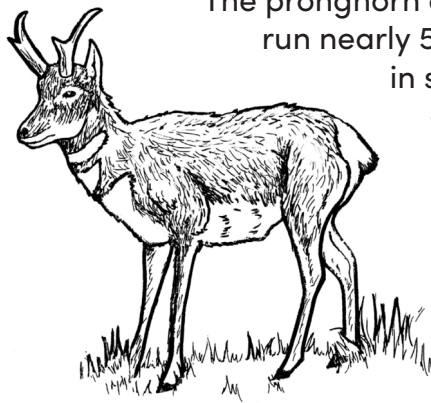


### Rabbit Tracks

As cottontails walk, you will see their small front paws together followed by one longer hind paw and then the next longer hind paw. Other than seeing the Cottontail Rabbit, you might find this clue: look for small, round pellets or scat.



## Pronghorn Antelope *Antilocapra americana*



The pronghorn antelope is the fastest land mammal in North America. It can run nearly 50 miles per hour as it escapes danger. Pronghorn antelope live in short grass prairie habitats. Here, they feed on shrubs, weeds, and short grasses like gramma and buffalo grasses. Male antelope are called bucks; females are does. Both bucks and does have horns. Unlike deer antlers, antelope horns don't shed. Look for pronghorn antelope in Oklahoma's Panhandle region such as Black Mesa State Park and Black Mesa Nature Preserve. Pronghorn also can be found in Ellis and Roger Mills Counties in western Oklahoma.

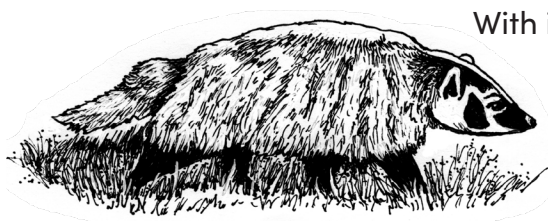
## Prairie Dog *Cynomys ludovicianus*

Prairie dogs are burrowing rodents that live in large groups called "towns". A prairie dog town is divided into small family groups. Each family of prairie dogs has their own series of burrows which connect small underground rooms. Their burrows may be 3 to 10 feet deep in the ground. These burrows not only provide safety to prairie dogs, but they are also shelter for other animals like rabbits, swift foxes, burrowing owls, snakes, amphibians, insects, and spiders. This is what makes prairie dogs a keystone species: They help other animals in their community, or ecosystem.

Prairie dogs feed on grasses and soft-leafed plants called forbs. Most prairie dogs in Oklahoma are found in the western half of our state. Prairie dogs are important to the food chain. Coyotes, bobcats, badgers, hawks, and golden eagles are among the animals that hunt prairie dogs for food.



## Badger *Taxidea taxus*



With its short and strong legs and long claws, the badger is a powerful digger. Badgers can quickly dig as they hunt gophers, ground squirrels, mice, rabbits, and even rattlesnakes. Badgers prefer to live in prairie habitats. In Oklahoma, they occur in all but the southeastern region of the state. With their sharp teeth,

powerful body and aggressive attitude, badgers are left alone by other predators, such as coyotes and bobcats.

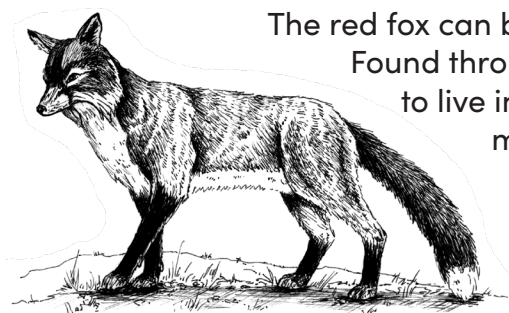
## Bison *Bison bison*

Commonly misnamed buffalo, American Bison is the correct name for this important grassland mammal. Before pioneers settled America's prairie regions during the 1800s, as many as 30 million bison lived in North America. Historically, bison provided Plains Indians with food, shelter, tools, and other items and also served as an important part of their spiritual beliefs. Bison remains a most significant part of modern Indian life and culture. Many people value the bison as a symbol of our nation's past and present.



In Oklahoma, large herds of bison can be observed at the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge near Lawton and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve near Pawhuska. Other bison herds are at Foss State Park near Clinton and Woolaroc Museum and Wildlife Preserve near Bartlesville.

## Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

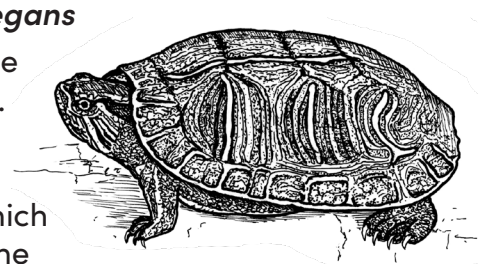


The red fox can be identified by its reddish coat and white-tipped tail.

Found throughout eastern and central Oklahoma, the red fox prefers to live in wooded habitats that are near to farmland, streams, or marshes. However, this fox is very adaptable and is often seen in suburbs and cities. The red fox is a skilled hunter of rabbits, mice, and other small rodents. Its den can be in a hollow log or under a fallen tree.

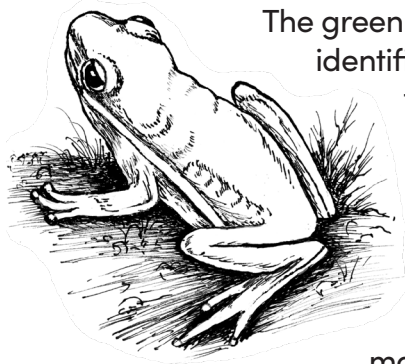
## Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta elegans*

The red-eared slider is a reptile. It is the most common turtle in Oklahoma and an important part of wetland ecosystems. Adult sliders primarily eat algae and other aquatic vegetation. When a pond or lake has too much algae and other vegetation, these plants remove dissolved oxygen, which fish and other aquatic animals must have to survive, from the water. But in addition to helping, red-eared sliders eat small aquatic animals. Some pet stores sell young red-eared sliders as pets.





## Green Treefrog *Hyla cinerea*



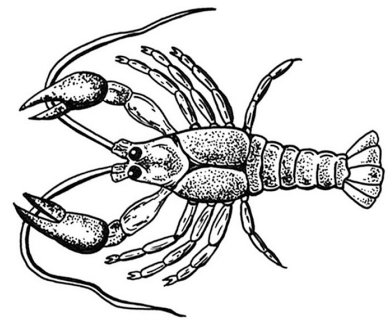
The green treefrog is one of Oklahoma's most beautiful frogs. It can be identified by its bright green skin and the white or yellow line that extends from below its eye to the back of its body. Its toe pads and long legs help it climb and jump. Green treefrogs primarily live in eastern and central Oklahoma near ponds, marshes, and lakeshores.

During summer nights, they may be seen on windows, as they hunt insects that are attracted to a porch light.

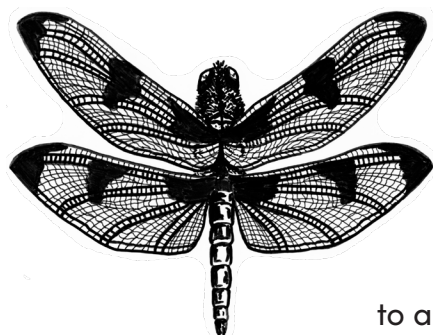
During breeding season, male treefrogs attract their mates by making very loud honking calls. As amphibians, green treefrogs begin their life as eggs that develop into tadpoles. It takes tadpoles about 6 weeks to complete their metamorphosis and become a mature frog. Like all amphibians, treefrogs breathe through their skin, which makes them especially sensitive to environmental changes.

## Crayfish *Procambarus clarki*

Crayfish, also called crawdads, are members of the Crustacean group of animals. Crayfish mostly live in water; they are related to lobsters, shrimp, and crabs. Like most crustaceans, crayfish have two primary body parts: a head (thorax) and an abdomen. They use gills to breathe underwater. Their bodies are covered with a hard shell called an exoskeleton. As a crayfish grows, it sheds, or molts, its exoskeleton. Soon, a new and larger exoskeleton forms around the crayfish's body. Crayfish are most active at night as they feed on plants and small aquatic animals. During the day, crayfish hide in their burrows. As a crayfish digs its burrow, it deposits excess mud on top of the ground. These mud balls look like tiny chimneys.



## Dragonflies *Odonata Anisoptera*



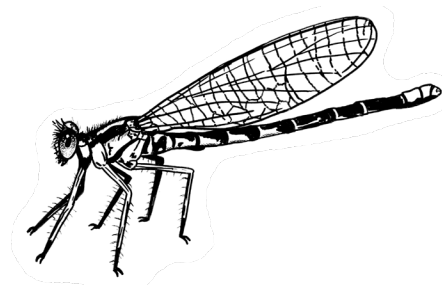
The adult dragonfly is a fast flyer and fierce hunter. Adult dragonflies catch their prey while in flight. They feed on mosquitoes, flies, and other small insects, including other dragonflies. Both the U.S. military and NASA have studied dragonflies' amazing ability to quickly change direction while in flight.

Dragonflies go through different life stages, from egg to nymph to adult insect. As a nymph, dragonflies live in water. They prey on other aquatic insects and can even overpower tadpoles and small fish. Dragonfly nymphs use gills to breathe oxygen.

There are many kinds of dragonflies. Two ways to identify the different species of dragonfly is by their color—which can be yellow, black, orange, red, white, brown, or blue—and by their wing patterns. When resting, an adult dragonfly holds its wings straight out from its body.

## Damselflies *Odonata Zygoptera*

Damselflies are predators. As adults, they catch small flying insects in midair and use their spiny legs to capture prey off of stems and leaves. Adult damselflies are smaller than dragonflies and have thinner bodies. When at rest, damselflies fold their wings above their back.



During their nymph stage of life, damselflies live in water, where they prey on small aquatic animals.

There are many kinds of damselflies. Their distinctive and often brilliant colors and wing patterns are helpful ways to identify the different species of damselflies.

## American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*



The American Crow is a common black bird that can be found in almost every Oklahoma State Park. In parts of eastern Oklahoma, the American Crow can be confused with its smaller family member, the Fish Crow. The Fish Crow makes a nasally “uh-oh” call while the American Crow makes a deep and loud cawing call. American Crows tend to roost together in huge numbers during the winter. Crows tend to make their nests out of pencil-thin sticks into a cup shape with any kind of soft material they can get their beak on—fur, doll hair, grass, paper, etc. These nests can be found in anyplace a crow thinks it will be safe—from the overhangs of skyscrapers to window ledges to a tree joint where two or more tree trunks come

together near the ground.

### Crow Tracks

All crows like to talk to other crows; listen for the American Crow’s deep, loud cawing call when you see these tracks nearby.



## Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*



The Red-tailed Hawk primarily feeds on rabbits, rodents, snakes, and lizards. It is found throughout Oklahoma but is most common where there are open fields with large trees nearby. It likes to build its large nest near the top of tall trees.

### Hawk Tracks

During summer months, search the sky, and you may see a large, soaring bird that shows a band of red on its tail feathers. This is a Red-tailed Hawk. These tracks might be more visible in the winter months when migrating hawks join the resident hawks that stay year-round. Whenever you hear a shrill cry that sounds like a Bald Eagle, it is most likely this raptor instead.



# Beware of these Plants & Animals!

Most plants and animals that live in state parks are harmless if left alone. Poison ivy and ticks are two things that can cause trouble if you do not take proper precautions. Here are some tips to help you avoid them.

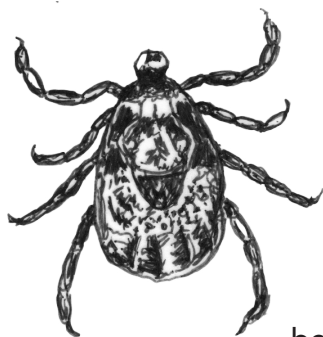
## Poison Ivy

Poison Ivy is a plant that grows throughout much of Oklahoma. It can be a small bush or a vine that grows up a tree. Many people are allergic to poison ivy. Itchy blisters or a rash from the poison of this plant can make you feel miserable. Do not touch this plant or brush against it with your clothing. Do not let your pet run through a patch of poison ivy or you will catch it when you touch your cat or dog. Do not burn tree limbs that have poison ivy vines, or you can breathe the poison ivy that is in the smoke of your campfire. If you touch poison ivy, try to wash your hands with soap and water as soon as you can. To avoid poison ivy, stay away from plants that have clusters of three leaflets. Remember: "Leaves of three, let it be."



## Ticks

Ticks are small, leathery, animals that live on the blood of other animals. Ticks have eight legs. They look like a small button. Baby ticks look like tiny, moving, freckles. When ticks bite, they can cause a skin rash. Some ticks carry diseases that can cause fever and, in rare cases, death. The best way to keep ticks off you is to apply an insect repellent to your pants, socks,



shoes and around your waist before hiking in the park. Wear a hat, long sleeve shirt, and tuck your pants legs inside your socks. Stay on trails; try to keep from touching plants that grow along the trail. While you are hiking, occasionally check your ankles and legs for ticks. Often you can remove them before they have had a chance to bite you. When you have finished your walk, look closely for ticks that may be trying to attach to your skin. Remember, baby ticks can be very small and look like moving freckles. If a tick is attached to your

skin, there are several ways of safely removing it. One way is to cover the tick with a thick layer of Vaseline, wait a few minutes and then pull it off. You can also use tweezers to grasp the tick and pull it out with a steady, straight motion. Do not squeeze the tick. Do not jerk when pulling the tick out or it may leave its head in your skin. Once the tick is removed, clean the bite with antiseptic. Wash your hands and the tweezers with soap and water. See a doctor if you develop a rash or fever.

# Songbirds of Oklahoma

## Songbirds that live in Oklahoma Year-Round

A number of songbirds live in Oklahoma State Parks throughout the year. The following birds can be found in most state parks.

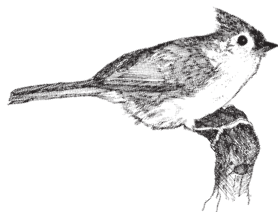


### Northern Cardinal

The cardinal is easily identified; the male is bright red, and both the male and female cardinal have a crest on top of their heads. The cardinal's sturdy beak is used to crack open seeds. The cardinal makes its nest in the branches of a bush or shrub.

### Blue Jay

This common songbird is found throughout Oklahoma. It is blue-colored and has a crest on top of its head. Blue jays are not bashful in letting you know they are near. Listen as it sings its name: *jay, jay, jay*.

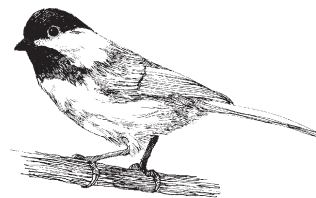


### Tufted Titmouse

A small, gray bird with a crest on its head. The titmouse is found in woodlands. Listen for its call: *pee-ter, pee-ter, pee-ter*.

### Carolina Chickadee

This small, grayish bird is easily identified. The top of its head and its neck are black; it has white cheeks. An acrobatic bird, it darts quickly from branch to branch. The chickadee often says its name: *chick-a-dee-dee-dee*.



### American Robin

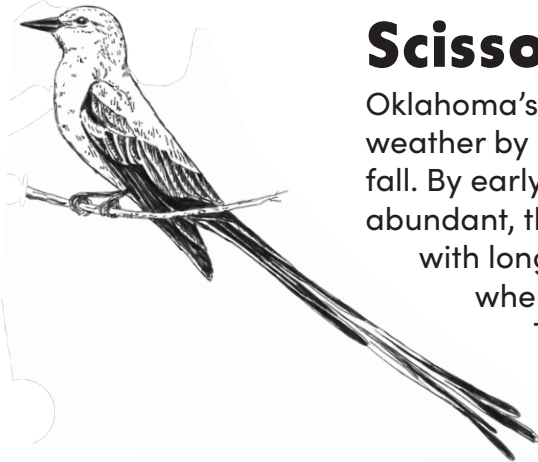
One of Oklahoma's most common songbirds, the robin lives in cities, meadows, and farmland. While robins tend to nest in trees, they can also nest in gutters, eaves, or on outdoor lights. It is easily identified with its bright orange belly and chest. Many robins from northern states spend the winter in Oklahoma.

## Northern Mockingbird

This slender gray bird has a long tail and sharp beak. The mockingbird is mostly found where there are meadows or fields. It builds its nest in shrubs and small trees. In the springtime, the mockingbird often sings throughout the day and night.



## Songbirds that live in Oklahoma Part of the Year



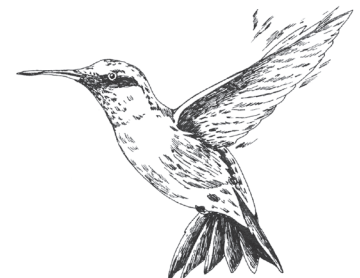
### Scissortail Flycatcher

Oklahoma's state bird, the scissortail flycatcher escapes cold weather by migrating south into Mexico and Central America each fall. By early April, as the weather warms and insects become more abundant, the flycatcher returns to Oklahoma. A gray-colored bird with long tail feathers, it is easy to recognize. It is most common where there are fields and grasslands rather than forests.

The scissortail perches on fence posts and utility lines as it searches for insects. Grasshoppers are its favorite food.

## Hummingbirds

A tiny bird, hummingbirds travel more than 2,000 miles each year from their winter home in Central America to spend the summer in Oklahoma and other places in North America. This bird feeds about every 10 minutes and eats about one-half of its body weight in insects and nectar every day.



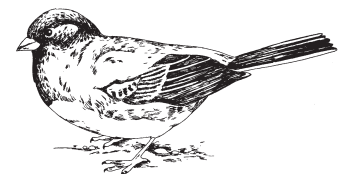
## American Goldfinch

Although some goldfinches live in Oklahoma year-round, most spend only the winter here. In the spring and summer, the male goldfinch is bright yellow with black wings and head. In the winter, it is more brownish-gray in color. The goldfinch likes to eat sunflower and thistle seeds.



## Dark-eyed Junco

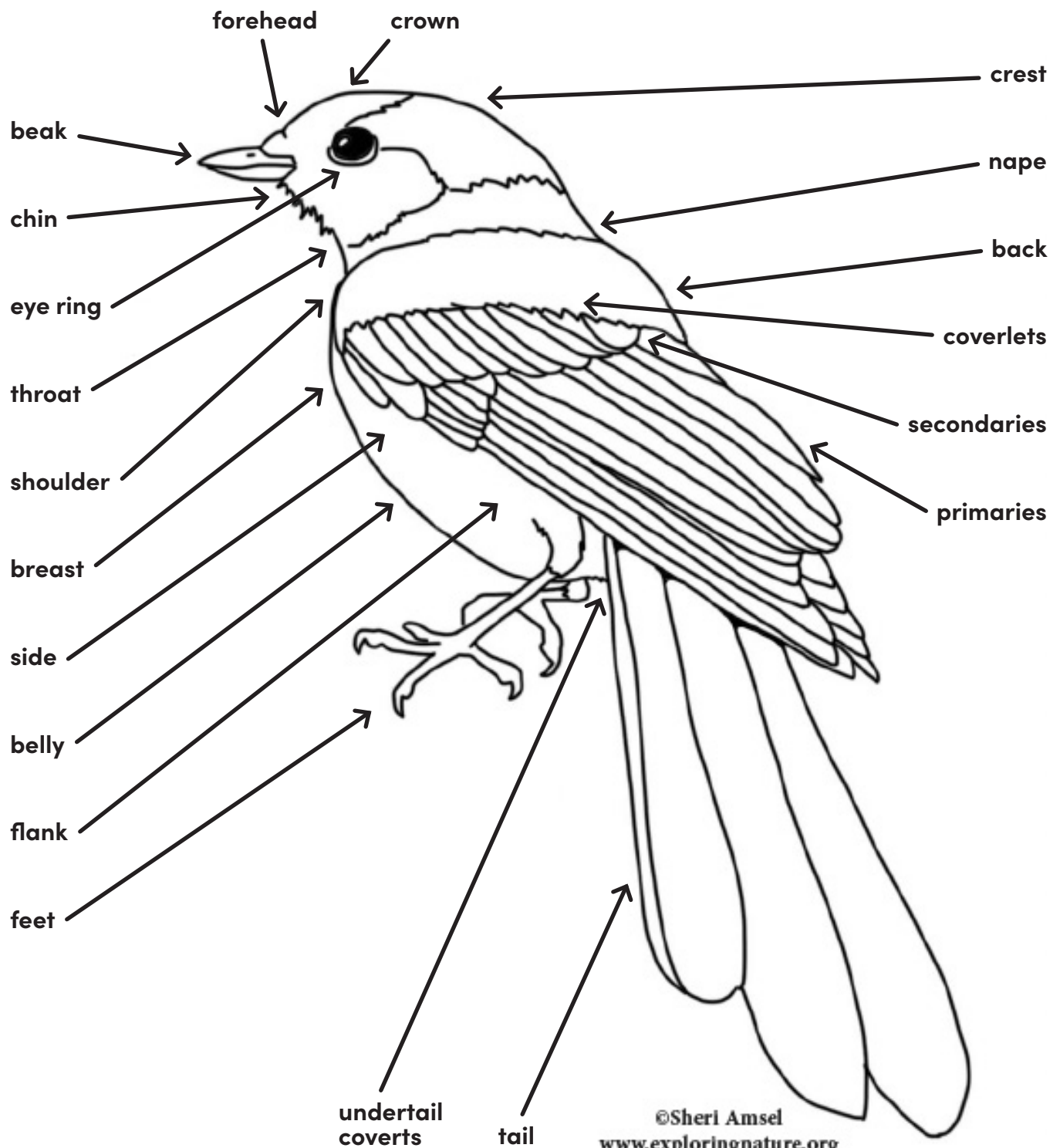
Often called the snowbird, the junco spends only the winter in Oklahoma. It has a dark gray head, back, and tail with a white belly. It feeds mostly on seeds that are on the ground.





# Bird Parts & Behaviors

## Bird External Anatomy



# Bird Behaviors



Swooping

Tree-climbing



Hopping



Soaring

Hovering



Flushes



Running



Walking



Swimming



Flap / Glide



Undulating



Flitter





# Trees of Oklahoma

Oklahoma is home for many different kinds of trees. Some trees grow in almost every part of the state. Other trees are only found in very specific places. Every tree has its own needs for sunlight, soil, space, and water. The following list of trees are among the more common trees that grow in many of Oklahoma's state parks. See how many you can find.



# Identifying Oklahoma's Trees

**Elm** There are several kinds of elm trees that grow in Oklahoma. American Elm is a large tree that likes moist soils of valleys and along creeks. This elm was often planted as a shade tree in towns and cities.



**Hackberry** Hackberry grows throughout most of Oklahoma. A medium-sized to large tree, its bark has corky warts that make it easy to identify. Its fruit is an important food for wildlife.

**Post Oak** A small to medium-sized tree, post oak grows throughout most of Oklahoma. A tough tree, post oak is able to live on dry, rocky soils. Its leaves are in the shape of a cross. In Oklahoma, there are some post oaks that are more than 400 years old.



**Blackjack Oak** A small to medium-sized tree, blackjack oak is often found growing with post oak. Like post oak, it is a tough tree and can grow where other trees cannot survive.

**Eastern Redbud** The official state tree of Oklahoma, the Eastern Redbud is a small tree that grows throughout the state. It often grows in the shade of larger trees. Its leaves are heart-shaped. In the spring, its branches are covered with purple blossoms.



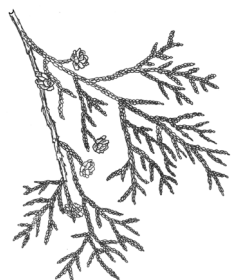
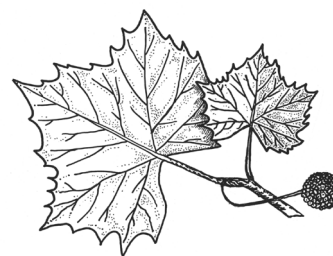
**Eastern Cottonwood** A large tree, Eastern Cottonwood grows where it has space, sunlight, and plenty of moisture. It is fast-growing but only lives about 50 years. Its leaves are triangular-shaped and turn yellow in the fall.

**Willow** One of many willows, the Black Willow, a medium-sized tree, black willow grows throughout most of Oklahoma. It often grows with cottonwood, where there is moist soil.



**Hickory** There are several kinds of hickory trees that grow in Oklahoma. Black Hickory is a small tree and is the most common hickory in the state. Its fruit are food for wildlife. Black Hickory is used to make charcoal and axe handles.

**American Sycamore** This large tree grows in wet soil along creeks and lakes in central and eastern Oklahoma. The bark of an American sycamore is smooth and white in color. The fruit is small and round.



**Eastern Red Cedar** This small to medium size evergreen tree grows throughout most of Oklahoma. Its berries are tasty treats for birds. Although they are native, eastern red cedar trees compete with native grasses for space, sunlight, and moisture, making them a native invasive tree.

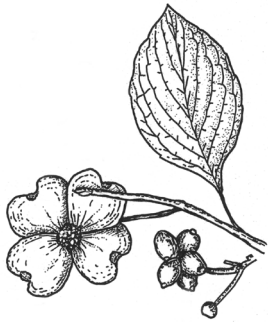
**Pine** One of a few pines, the Shortleaf pine is an evergreen, a tree that keeps its leaves year-round, that grows throughout southeast Oklahoma. Pine trees have many uses including lumber and paper products.



**Soapberry** A small to medium-sized tree, soapberry grows in central and western Oklahoma. Its yellow-orange berries are poisonous to humans but not to wildlife. Pioneers crushed these berries and used the juice to make a kind of soap.

**Mulberry** Although there are a couple of introduced mulberry species, such as the White Mulberry, the Red Mulberry is the most common of the two native species found in Oklahoma. The Red Mulberry is a medium-sized tree that produces white milky sap and edible dark purple mulberries. The fibrous inner bark would be woven into cloaks made by Choctaw women.





**Dogwood** There are two native species of dogwood to Oklahoma, the most common being roughleaf dogwood. As a shrub or small tree, roughleaf dogwood can be found throughout Oklahoma except the panhandle and provides great cover for wildlife. As Oklahoma's most native ornamental trees, the flowering dogwood is a small tree found in eastern Oklahoma with showy white flowers in the spring and scarlet red leaves in the fall.

**Pecan** As a large tree, the pecan is one of the most important farmed plants used for its pecan nuts. Part of the Hickory family, pecan trees are fast-growing and great for shade.



**Ash** With four different types of native ash in Oklahoma, the Green Ash is most common throughout the state except the Panhandle and western edge. Ash trees are good shade trees and can be identified by their opposite leaflets. White Ash is an important tree used for wood in the lumber industry, and Blue Ash was used by pioneers for the blue dye from its inner bark.

**Cypress** The only cypress in Oklahoma, found in southeast Oklahoma, is the bald cypress that is a large needle-leaf tree. The bald cypress is also a cone-bearing deciduous tree, so it sheds its leaves. It has "knees," that are parts of its roots, rising from the ground to aid in absorbing oxygen from the air.



**Chittamwood** A small to medium-sized tree, chittamwood grows throughout Oklahoma except for the panhandle and western edge. This tree would produce a gummy sap that the children of pioneers would use as chewing gum.

## Help Protect Trees

Even though trees look tough and sturdy they can be easily damaged. Just inside the tree's bark is a thin layer (phloem) that carries food from the leaves to the roots and to the rest of the tree. A little deeper inside the tree is sapwood (xylem), which is a pipeline that carries water from the roots to the leaves. If you remove the bark or chop into a tree, you cause it to be seriously harmed. Such injuries hurt the tree by making it harder for it to feed itself. Tree wounds are also places where insects and disease can enter the tree.

**Thank you for helping protect all plants and animals in the park!**

# Ten Essentials

Back in the 1930s, there was an outdoor organization called The Mountaineers that included people who loved to get outside and do recreational activities like hiking or camping. In order to ensure their safety when on an outdoor trip, this group created a list of very important items to keep with you at all times when you are outdoors camping or hiking. This list was called The Mountaineer Ten Essentials™, and it was revealed to the public in 1974. Here is what the list of Ten Essentials are. Always make sure to keep these ten items with you when you go to camp or hike at any Oklahoma State Park, no matter if it is for an hour, a whole day, or a whole weekend. You never know what may happen when you are outdoors.



1

**Navigation** Always make sure you have some way to help you know where to go so you do not get lost. Examples are a paper trail map, a map on your phone, a GPS device, or even a compass. If you use a phone for your map, make sure it is fully charged, you have signal, and you have a battery pack to charge it with. Keep a paper map as a backup.

2

**Illumination** Even if you are on a short hike with your family, keep something with you that you can use for a light in case you are out longer than expected and nighttime comes. Examples are a headlamp or a flashlight, ideally with an extra set of batteries. You can use your flashlight on your phone if needed, but make sure your phone is fully charged or you have a battery pack.

3

**Insulation** Insulation refers to some type of clothing you can layer up with to stay warm. Examples are a jacket, rain poncho, sweater, or a hat and gloves. This makes sense in the winter, fall, or spring but may not during the summer. Oklahoma's summers may get to be too hot sometimes, but nature is unpredictable, and the weather could change in an instant. At least have something that does not take up much space in your bag, like a long-sleeve shirt, just in case.

4

**Sun Protection** No matter the season, sun protection is important. Examples are a hat, a pair of sunglasses, or sunscreen. No matter the outdoor activity, using sun protection will help your body stay healthy. For example, wearing sunglasses in the winter when it is sunny helps your eyes, and sunscreen can help prevent skin cancer.



**Fire** When you are hiking with your family, make sure to have something you can use to help make a fire if an emergency happens. Examples are a small box of matches or a lighter and fire starter. Make sure you have learned how to make a fire and use it properly, or have an adult help you with a fire if one is necessary. Also make sure to know the park's regulations on fire.



**First-Aid Supplies** Having any type of first-aid kit, even a small travel size one or a small bag with band-aids and triple antibiotic ointment, is always a good idea to have on hand.



**Repair Kit & Tools** This item (s) can vary based on what outdoor activity you are doing. A repair kit can be as simple as a small roll of duct tape and a few simple tools can be a pocketknife or some scissors. Make sure you know how to properly handle any type of tool or have an adult use it for you. Other tools you may need could be a can opener or a screwdriver.



**Nutrition** No matter how long you plan to be outdoors or even if you just ate lunch, make sure to keep some type of food on you just in case. This could be as simple as a granola bar or an apple.



**Hydration** Out of all the Ten Essentials, if you only remember one, remember this one! Always make sure to have something to drink with you when outdoors, even just a water bottle. If you think you will only be on a short hike for an hour, it is important to stay hydrated. And it is very important to have extra water with you during the hot summer days. Make sure you know the dangers of heat exhaustion and dehydration!

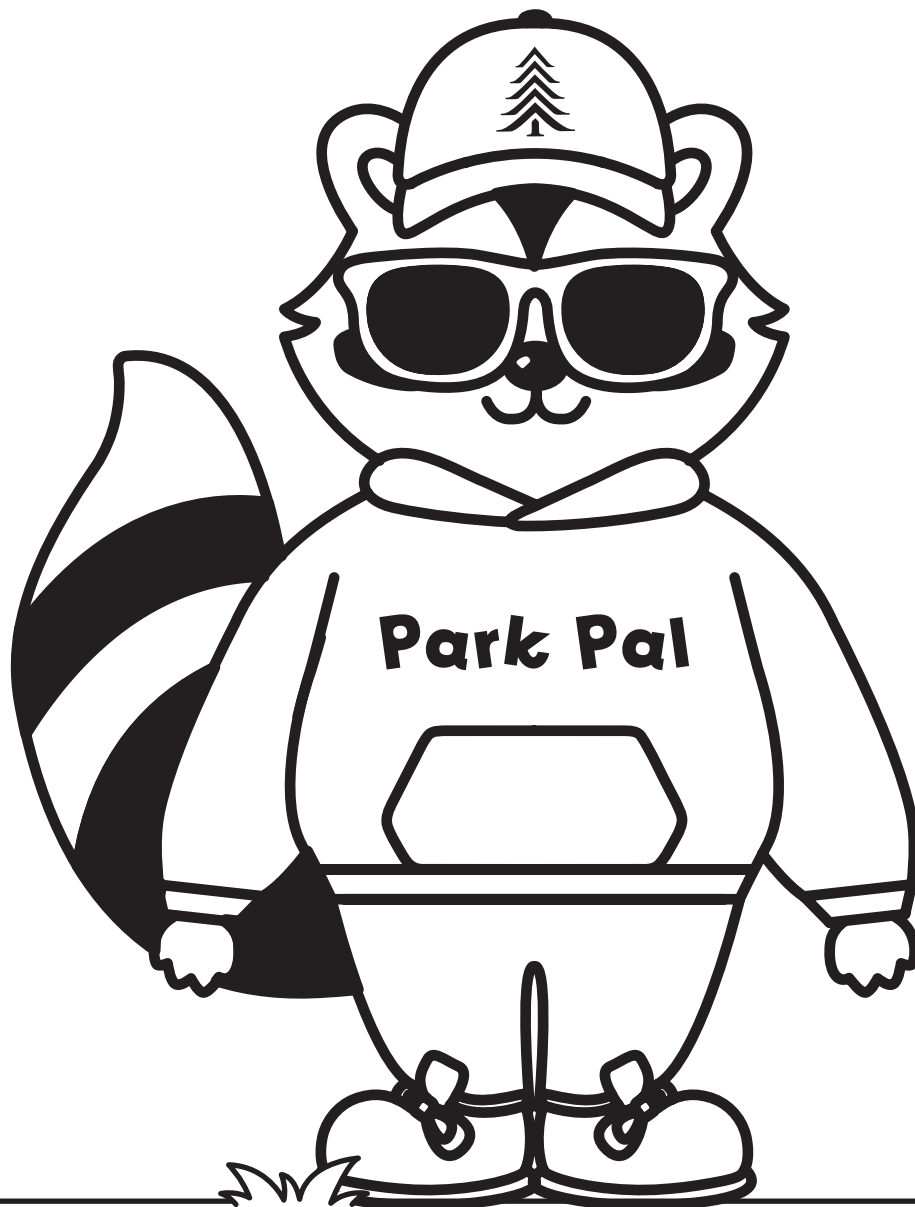


**Shelter** This item will vary depending on your outdoor activity. Even if you are out on a short hike during the day, at least have a packable emergency blanket with you, just in case. You never know what might happen when you are outdoors. If you are camping, your shelter would most likely look like a tent or RV that you use during your stay at any Oklahoma State Park.



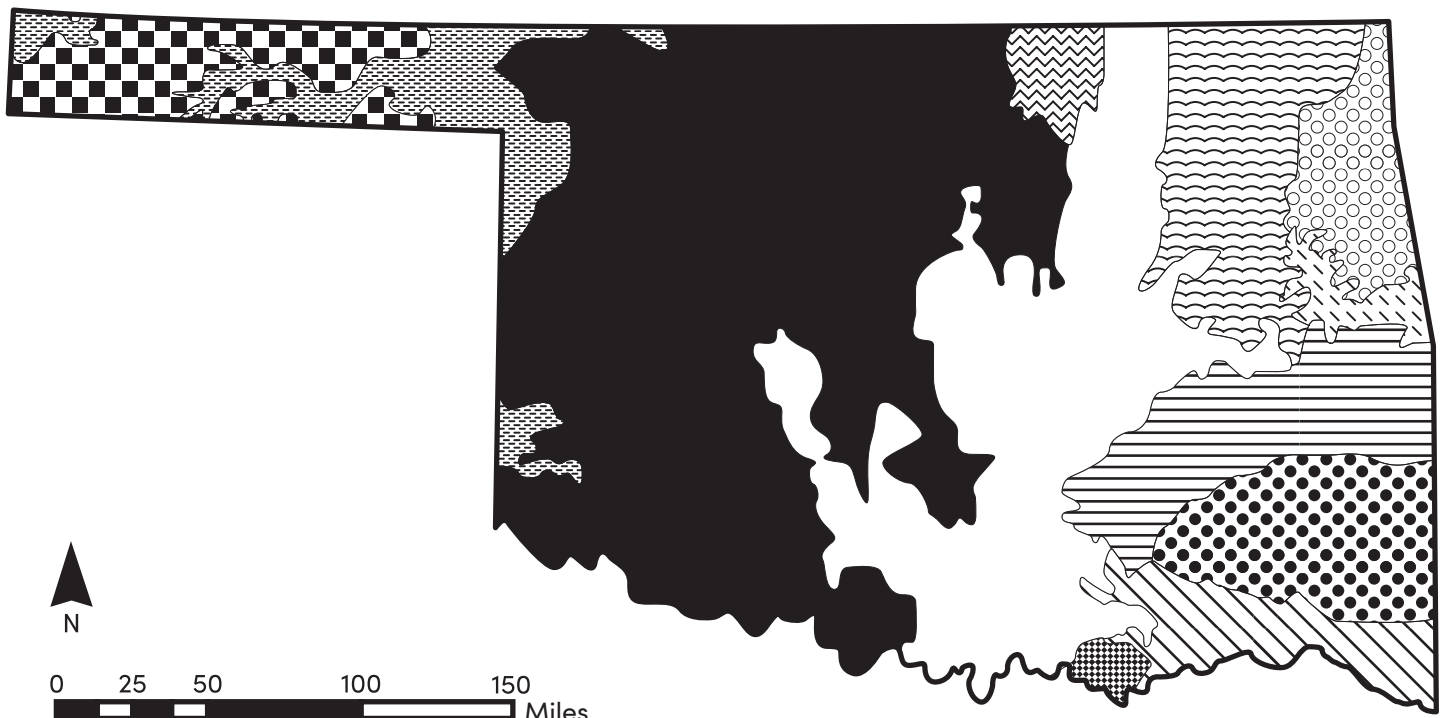
# Oklahoma's Ecoregions

Having the greatest number of ecoregions per mile and being only 1 of 4 states with more than 10, Oklahoma has a diverse landscape. The state's 12 ecoregions are divided up into different groups within the state based on their natural ecosystems that are shaped by different plants and geology. Here are what the 12 ecoregions of Oklahoma are and a brief description about them.





# The 12 Ecoregions of Oklahoma



South Central Plains



Ouachita Mountains



Arkansas Valley



Boston Mountain



Ozark Highlands



Central Irregular Plains



Flint Hills



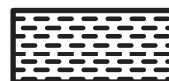
Cross Timbers



East Central Texas Plains



Central Great Plains



Southwest Tablelands



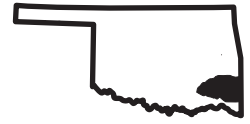
Western High Plains



**South Central Plains** Also called the Gulf Coastal Plains or Cypress Swamps and Forests, this ecoregion is in the southeast corner of Oklahoma that is the warmest and most humid part of the state. This ecoregion also has swamps and sloughs with bald cypress and oak trees mixed with hickory trees, loblolly pine, and shortleaf pine.



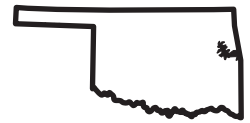
**Ouachita Mountains** Sitting on top of the South Central Plains, the Ouachita Mountains is the most mountainous region in Oklahoma and also has the most precipitation within the state. This ecoregion is heavily forested with loblolly and shortleaf pine that is mixed with some oak and hickory trees.



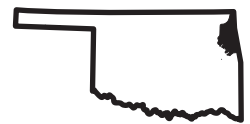
**Arkansas Valley** Sitting on top of the Ouachita Mountains, the Arkansas Valley is sometimes called the Hardwood Forest. This ecoregion has primarily flat lowlands that include a mix of tallgrass prairie grasses and wildflowers in the open areas and a mix of oak, elm, and hackberry trees in the forested areas.



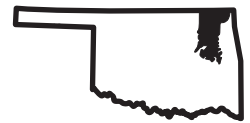
**Boston Mountains** Sitting on top of the Arkansas Valley, the Boston Mountains ecoregion is sometimes called the Ozark Forests. This region is covered with primarily forests of oak and hickory trees but has some eastern red cedar and shortleaf pine mixed in too.



**Ozark Highlands** Sitting on top of the Boston Mountains, the Ozark Highlands contains the Ozark Plateau and is covered by hills and low mountains. This ecoregion consists of a mix of tallgrass prairie grasses and wildflowers with many forests containing oak, hickory, elm, sycamore, cottonwood, redbud, dogwood, and eastern red cedars.



**Central Irregular Plains** As we start to near the Northeast corner of Oklahoma, we get into the Central Irregular Plains that is sometimes called Caves and Prairies. This ecoregion features a natural assortment of both tallgrass prairie and forests. Many different plants can be found in this ecoregion from various grasses to various wildflowers to elm, oak, hackberry, cottonwood, sycamore, hickory, sumac, elderberries, and strawberries.



**Flint Hills** Between the Cross Timbers and Central Great Plains lies the Flint Hills at the northern border of Oklahoma, primarily in Osage County. Also called the Tallgrass Prairie ecoregion at times, the Flint Hills are characterized by rolling hills and primarily tallgrass prairie grasses and wildflowers. There are some yucca and prickly pear that are common as well, and fire is an important player in this ecoregion. Some areas have forests that consist of many trees like the Cross Timbers, dominated by blackjack and post oak.

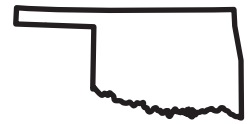




**Cross Timbers** The Cross Timbers makes up a great portion of the central part of Oklahoma from Texas to Kansas. Also called the Central Oklahoma/Texas Plains, this ecoregion consists primarily of post oak, blackjack oak, and black hickory. This ecoregion also got its name from wooded areas, called timbers, crossing the plains, which creates a type of plant community called a savanna. Other trees like dogwood, redbud, cottonwood, hackberry, birch, and willow can be found as well as tallgrass prairie grasses and wildflowers.



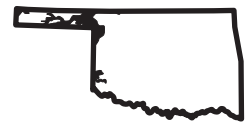
**East Central Texas Plains** This small part of southern Oklahoma, in between the Cross Timbers and South Central Plains, is primarily a post oak savana plant community with a mixture of rolling tallgrass prairie plains with scattered post oak and blackjack oak.



**Central Great Plains** Covering most of western Oklahoma—minus the Panhandle—lies the Central Great Plains characterized by mixed-grass prairies, both shortgrass and tall grass prairies, rolling gypsum hills, sand dunes, and the Wichita Mountains. Some of the grasslands are sprinkled with savannas that are home to mesquite and shinnery oak, while along rivers are trees like cottonwoods, willows, chittamwoods, hackberry, and elms. At times, thickets of sand plums and fragrant sumacs can be found as well as sandsage more out west around the sand dunes.



**Southwest Tablelands** Mixed in between the Central Great Plains and the Western High Plains, this ecoregion consists of flat plains with a mixture of shortgrass and tallgrass prairie grasses and wildflowers. Some shinnery oaks can be found mixed with the prairies in circular clumps called mottes. Rivers in this ecoregion are dominated by cottonwoods with some hackberry and elms mixed in. Sand plum and sumac thickets as well as sandsage can be found in the sand dunes areas of this ecoregion too. The Southwest Tablelands houses the highest elevation point in Oklahoma—Black Mesa. Black Mesa is 4,973 feet above sea level and consists of many flat-topped mesas that are home to a few different types of cacti like cholla and prickly pear, mainly shortgrass prairie grasses, but also has some sparse western US trees like junipers, pinyon pines, and some western oaks.



**Western High Plains** As the last ecoregion rounding out the rest of the panhandle of Oklahoma, the Western High Plains is mixed in with the Southwest Tablelands and has mostly shortgrass prairie grasses and wildflowers due to lack of water. In wetter areas, some mixed-grass plants are present with cottonwoods, willows, and wild plum thickets. The same western sand dune plants can also be present in this ecoregion, with the sand plum and sandsage. This ecoregion is an important part of the bird migration, as it is where birds like to rest in areas with shallow and circular depression that are filled with water coming off the surrounding plains, called playa lakes. Prairie dogs are a very important keystone species in this ecoregion, which houses the largest prairie dog towns in Oklahoma. These towns also make homes for other animals like burrowing owls, foxes, snakes, and more.



# Activity #1

## What does a Park Naturalist do?

First! What would YOU like to be when you grow up? \_\_\_\_\_

An Oklahoma State Park Naturalist has one of the coolest jobs within state parks. A Naturalist's job never gets boring with so many different activities and events – the possibilities are endless! There are three main goals that a naturalist tries to achieve:

- 1** Interpret the park's natural, historic, and cultural assets to park guests to promote the importance and appreciations of the park's nature, wildlife, and cultural history.
- 2** Help the park protect its natural, historical, and cultural resources through resource management and conservation efforts.
- 3** Expand the interpretation of natural, historical, and cultural resources, environmental awareness, and stewardship to the local community through outreach and engagement.

These three goals are achieved through guided hikes, conservational community and park events, hands-on crafts, wildlife and plant surveys, habitat restoration projects, school presentations, and partnering with other community organizations to promote environmental practices and stewardship efforts.

And Park Naturalists are not the only ones that try to help achieve these goals either. Other park staff, like Park Managers, Park Interpretive Specialists, and Park Rangers also help try to achieve these goals too. During your stay at an Oklahoma State Park, find one of these park employees to interview. Ask them the following questions and make notes of their answers.

Park Employee Title: \_\_\_\_\_ State Park: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did you become a \_\_\_\_\_ ?

---

---

2. Did you know you wanted to be this when you were growing up?

---

---

3. How did you come to work for \_\_\_\_\_ ?

---

---

4. What is your favorite part about your job?

---

---

5. Would you change jobs if you had the chance?

---

---

Now that you have interviewed a park employee – would YOU be changing what you want to do when you grow up? If yes, what to?

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# Activity #2

## Ten Essentials

Can you remember the ten essentials to make sure you have with you when you go to camp or hike? Circle what can be used as part of the ten essentials and 'X' out the ones that cannot.

Remember: no matter if it is for an hour, a whole day, or a whole weekend, always have the ten essentials with you. You never know what may happen when you are outdoors.



an apple



granola bar



water bottle



flashlight



pen



stuffed animal



figurine toy



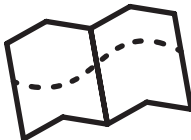
band-aids &  
anti-bacterial ointment



reading book



headphones



trail map



pocket knife



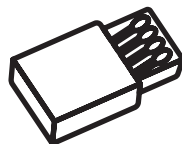
sunglasses



rain jacket



pocket emergency shelter



matches



gatorade

# Activity #3

## Match the Ecoregions

Do you remember what the 12 ecoregions of Oklahoma are? Pick your own color for each ecoregion in the legend and use that color to color in where in Oklahoma the ecoregion is.

Refer back to page 25 if necessary.

South Central Plains

Ouachita Mountains

Arkansas Valley

Boston Mountain

Ozark Highlands

Central Irregular Plains

Flint Hills

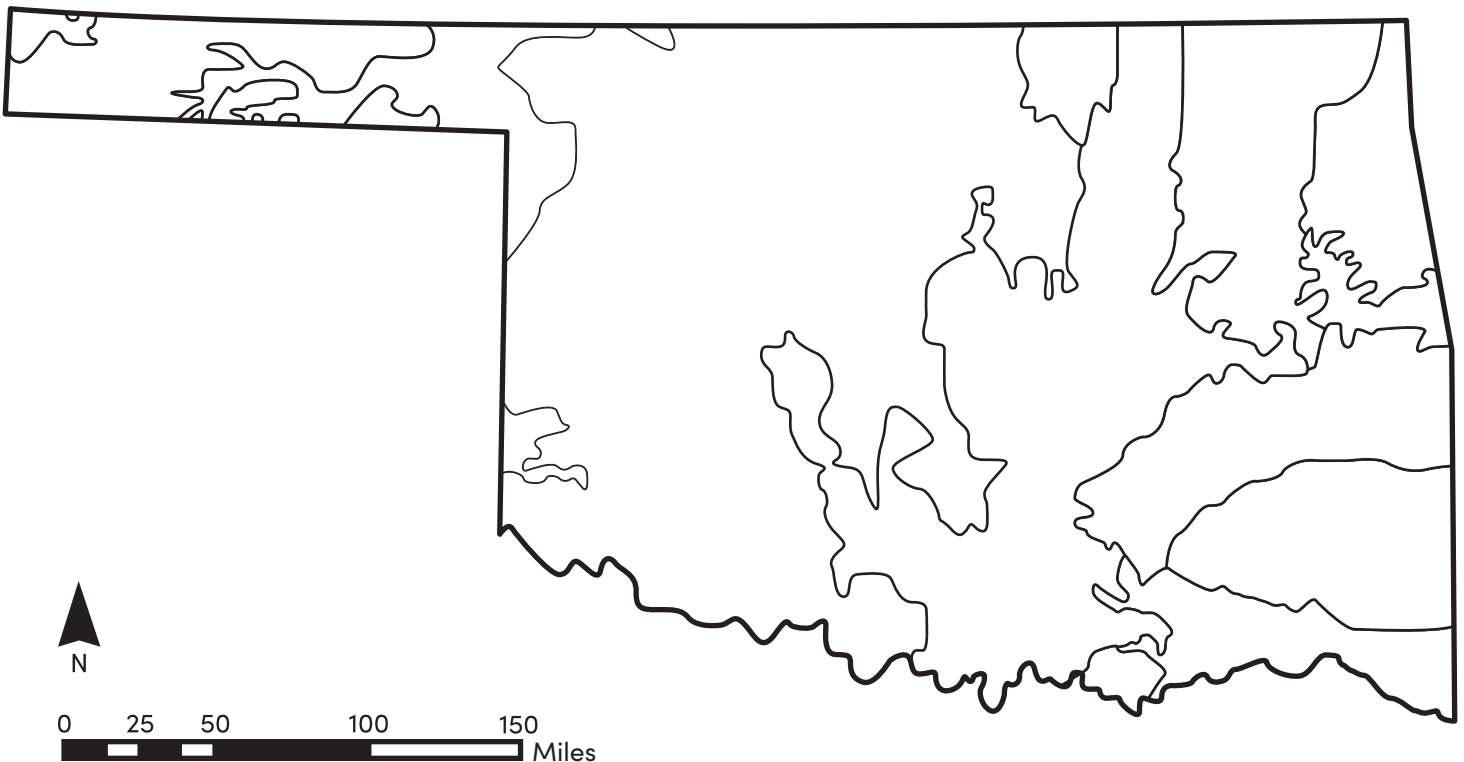
Cross Timbers

East Central Texas Plains

Central Great Plains

Southwest Tablelands

Western High Plains



## Activity #4

# Nature Journal

People have always enjoyed sharing their experiences. We know that since ancient times, Native Americans told their children about their tribal history and culture through storytelling. Explorers and pioneers often recorded their experiences in written journals. Scientists study from journals that other scientists write reports in based on data they collect. Park Naturalists also keep notes on the plants and animals that they observe. For example, these journals help Naturalists to remember when migratory birds visit their state park or where uncommon plants are growing.

Take a guided hike with a Park Naturalist, Park Interpretive Specialist, Park Manager, or Park Ranger and use your senses to observe the nature around you while on the trail. If needed, a self-guided hike with your family can do too. Take in what you see, what you hear, what you smell, and the way things feel when you touch them, but be careful of harmful plants and animals! Then write a nature journal entry below of your observations.

For example: At the beginning of the hike, I came across a Northern Cardinal chirping in an oak tree. The oak's bark felt rough to the touch, but its leaves were smooth. The air smelled like rain since there was a storm about to come soon.

[illegible]

# Activity #5

## Tree ID

Match the leaf to the correct tree. Then match the leaf to the correct statement.

**Post Oak**



**Shortleaf Pine**



**Eastern Redbud**



**American Elm**



**Eastern Red Cedar**



**Eastern Cottonwood**



**Red Mulberry**



**Flowering Dogwood**



**Bald Cypress**



**White Ash**



A fast-growing tree that only lives about 50 years.

The wood from this tree is important in the lumber industry.

It's a native tree, but it's also an invasive species.

An evergreen used for its lumber and paper products.

Some of these trees can be over 400 years old.

Has "knees" that help it take in oxygen from the air.

Oklahoma's most native ornamental tree.

Often planted in towns and cities for shade.

A tree with heart-shaped leaves and purple blossoms.

The fibrous inner bark of this tree would be woven into cloaks made from Choctaw Indian women.

# Activity #6

## CCC/WPA

Finding awesome historical facts is like adding a bird to your life list! Can you find the following words in this word search that describe more about the CCC and WPA?

Administration

Original

Alfalfa Bill

Planning

Conservation

Recreation

Economy

Roosevelt

Herbert

Rustic

New Deal

Thirty Eight

A	Q	W	G	F	D	T	Y	H	S	P	A	P	K
L	D	Y	C	X	G	H	O	O	L	I	T	A	T
F	A	M	U	N	M	C	S	A	O	L	D	H	Y
A	R	O	I	N	D	S	N	O	E	L	G	E	B
L	O	N	V	N	E	N	W	V	R	I	F	R	R
F	L	O	C	A	I	D	E	T	E	D	Y	B	E
A	A	C	O	N	K	S	R	Y	I	U	M	E	C
B	N	E	G	E	O	Z	T	S	G	F	R	R	R
I	I	Y	U	O	I	R	N	R	A	S	U	T	E
L	G	B	R	G	I	N	J	H	A	V	S	E	A
L	I	B	E	H	T	Y	I	C	O	T	T	J	T
A	R	T	T	E	M	D	Q	U	D	S	I	Z	I
N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	N	O	C	O	O
L	M	R	G	S	P	O	L	A	E	D	W	E	N

# Activity #7

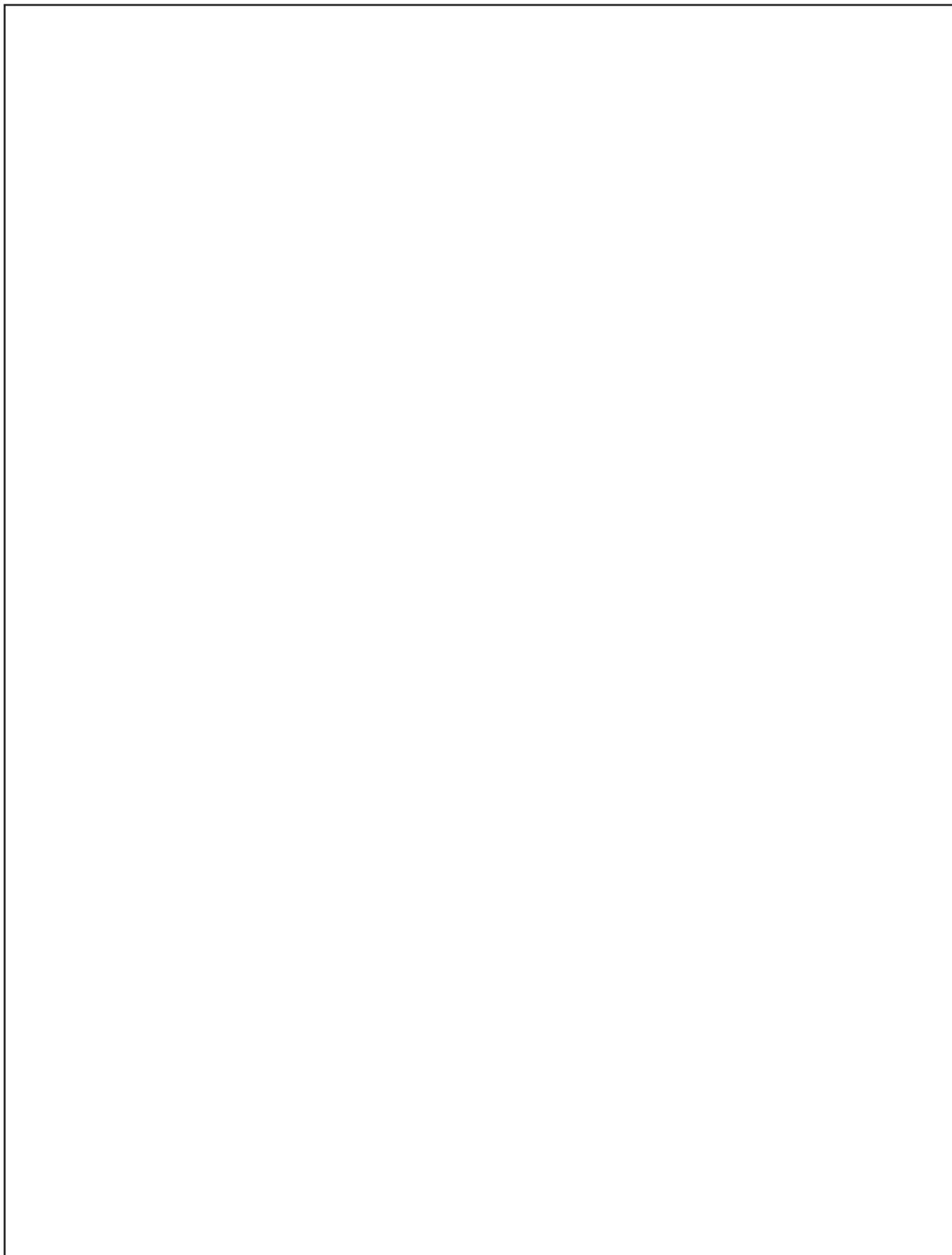
## Bird ID

Wildlife watching is a great way to observe and learn how plants and animals interact together to create a well-balanced ecosystem. One the best parts of wildlife watching is to watch birds! In order to make bird watching fun, it is important to identify them. Grab your binoculars, go anywhere you want to outside, and observe 3 birds that you see. Then, fill in the notes for each bird below. Refer back to page 15 if necessary.

	Example	Bird #1	Bird #2	Bird #3
<b>Location &amp; Time</b> Where were you when you saw the bird? At the lake, in the forest, in the parking lot? What time of the day was it when you saw the bird?	On an Oak tree along the Lakeshore Trail. It was around 8am in the morning.			
<b>Beak</b> Is the beak long or short, curved or straight? What color is it?	Long straight black beak.			
<b>Size &amp; Shape</b> Is the bird tall, short, or medium in size? Is it larger or smaller than a Crow?	Medium-sized bird with long, stiff tail feathers.			
<b>Colors on Head</b> What color is the top of the head? A white eye ring or white eye stripe? What color is the throat? What color eyes?	Red on top with white cheeks, white throat, no white circle around eyes, and black eye.			
<b>Colors on Back, Chest, Belly, and Rump</b> List the color(s) you see on any of these body parts.	Black and White pattern on back with a white chest and red belly.			
<b>Behavior</b> What was the bird doing? Was it perched on a tree branch, hovering, swimming, soaring in the air, walking up or down on the trunk, wading in the water?	Walking up the trunk of the Oak in a spiral motion.			
<b>Identify the Species</b> Optional, but try to learn what kind of bird you saw.	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
<b>Other Notes</b> What else did you observe? Did it make any noise? How many were there?	It made a drumming noise as I saw it pecking at the tree trunk. Two were present – one with a red forehead and one with a gray forehead.			



**Now draw one of the three birds you saw in the box!**



# Junior Naturalist Program Attendance

Evening campfire talks, guided nature hikes, and nature center activities are some examples of the programs which are offered at many Oklahoma State Parks. Please check with the Park Manager, Park Naturalist, Park Interpretive Specialist, or Park Ranger regarding the schedule of programs that are offered during your park visit.

Below, please list one state park program which you have recently attended. At the conclusion of this program ask the Park Manager, Park Naturalist, Park Interpretive Specialist, or Park Ranger to sign your booklet.

Park Program Topic:

Name of State Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Park Employee: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn from the program?

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# Junior Naturalist Service Project

Oklahoma State Parks count on visitors to help keep each state park a clean and pretty place. Picking up trash along a trail, watering a butterfly garden or planting wildflower seeds are just some of the many ways you can help a state park.

Visit with a Park Manager, Park Naturalist, Park Interpretive Specialist, or Park Ranger about a service project that you can help with. Once you have completed the project, ask that park employee to sign this page of your Junior Naturalist booklet.

Description of Project:

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Name of State Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Park Employee

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# Oklahoma State Parks

## Participating Oklahoma State Parks

The following Oklahoma state parks are participating in the Junior Naturalist Program.  
Children can obtain the Junior Naturalist booklet at these locations.

\*Alabaster Caverns  
Arrowhead  
\*Beavers Bend  
\*Bernice Area at Grand Lake State Park  
Black Mesa  
Boiling Springs  
Cherokee Area at Grand Lake State Park  
Cherokee Landing  
Fort Cobb  
Foss  
Great Plains  
Great Salt Plains  
\*Greenleaf  
Honey Creek Area at Grand Lake State Park  
Keystone  
\*Lake Eufaula  
\*Lake Murray  
\*Lake Texoma  
\*Lake Thunderbird  
Lake Wister  
Little Sahara  
McGee Creek  
Natural Falls  
Osage Hills  
\*Quartz Mountain  
\*Robbers Cave  
\*Roman Nose  
\*Sequoyah  
Sequoyah Bay  
Spavinaw Area at Grand Lake State Park  
Talimena  
\*Tenkiller  
Twin Bridges Area at Grand Lake State Park

\*State Parks that have a Nature Center or Park Naturalist or a Park Interpretive Specialist.

# Check List for Becoming a Junior Naturalist

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level entering next school year \_\_\_\_\_

State Park where workbook was provided \_\_\_\_\_

State Park where completed workbook is verified \_\_\_\_\_

Date of workbook verification \_\_\_\_\_

## Requirements

- ☐ 1. Complete the tasks and activities listed in this workbook while at a state park.
- ☐ 2. Attend a state park program.
- ☐ 3. Complete the service project on page 38 at a state park.
- ☐ 4. Review and follow safety tips and park rules.

## Verification of Completion of Requirements

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

Have your parent or guardian sign above and complete the junior naturalist evaluation form  
(on other side).

Return this completed sheet and the junior naturalist evaluation form to any state park office  
for final verification.

Your certificate and patch will be mailed to you.



# Junior Naturalist Evaluation Form

An evaluation form to be completed by a parent or guardian.

1. How did you become aware of the Junior Naturalist program?
2. Which activity did your child most enjoy? Why?
3. Was there an activity that could be improved? Which one and how could it be improved?
4. This workbook could be better if:
5. Any other suggestions?

Thank you for responding to this survey. By completing this evaluation, you help us make the Junior Naturalist program beneficial to the youth who visit Oklahoma's state parks. Thank you for your help!







