



# Wildlife ID and Equipment Flash Cards

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\*Photos by R. Williams unless otherwise noted

The flash cards provided within this publication will help students identify common Indiana wildlife species and equipment for the Indiana Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP)—Animal Identification event. All of the species listed in this publication are found in Indiana and are either listed in the national handbook or have been added to the state contest (species not in the national list are indicated by an asterisk).

Studies have shown that repetition is the most effective form of learning. Flash cards remain one of the simplest and most successful tools for engaging students in the learning process. Flash cards allow students to take advantage of brief periods of time throughout the day (e.g., car rides) because they can easily be taken anywhere. Flash cards also enable students to “compete” with themselves or against peers in a group setting.

Use the following pages to make flash cards by cutting the dotted lines and folding the papers where indicated. Students are encouraged to

print these cards using a color printer. Preprinted flash card sets are available for purchase at: Purdue Extension—The Education Store, [www.the-education-store.com](http://www.the-education-store.com).

## THE CONTEST

Preserved specimens (not pictures) will be used for the Indiana Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) Career Development Event. While most specimens retain their coloration for decades, some may fade over short periods of time. To ensure students are prepared for these subtle changes, flash cards were developed using pictures of specimens that will be displayed on the day of the contest. Information about how to identify a particular species is listed on the back of each flash card. The most important characteristics used for identification are always listed first. Students will only be responsible for identifying specimens shown in the photos (i.e., generally adult males). Students will be allowed to gently handle specimens to view important features needed for positive identification. Students will be required to identify 50 wildlife species or associated wildlife equipment from among a total of 88 listed on the attached cards. Students will have 30 seconds to record an answer on the top of the scantron sheet before moving to the next station.

For more information, visit:  
[www.four-h.purdue.edu/whep](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/whep)



Cut

Fold



## American Kestrel

### Characteristics

Two black stripes on face, reddish-brown back and tail, hooked beak, sharp talons

Cut



## American Robin

### Characteristics

Brick-red breast and belly, yellow beak, grayish back with darker head and tail

Cut



## American Woodcock

### Characteristics

Reddish-brown breast and belly, long beak, horizontal dark bars on head

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Blue-winged Teal**

### **Characteristics**

Blue forewing, crescent-shaped white patch on face, small for a duck

Cut



## **Broad-winged Hawk**

### **Characteristics**

Broad black and white bands on tail,  
last white band broader than others;  
hooked beak; sharp talons

Cut



## **Brown Thrasher**

### **Characteristics**

Reddish-brown on head, back, and tail;  
heavily streaked belly; long tail

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Canada Goose**

### **Characteristics**

Black head and neck,  
white "chin strap"

Cut



## **Common Nighthawk**

### **Characteristics**

White bar across wings,  
white throat, small beak

Cut



## **Eastern Bluebird**

### **Characteristics**

Deep blue along head, back, and tail;  
reddish-brown along throat and breast;  
white belly

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **European Starling**

### **Characteristics**

Iridescent black feathers;  
body feathers tipped with white;  
short, square tail

Cut



## **Grasshopper Sparrow**

### **Characteristics**

Breast plain and dull brown (buff-colored);  
dark head with light, buff-colored median stripe

Cut



## **Great Horned Owl**

### **Characteristics**

Large ear tufts, white throat,  
hooked beak, sharp talons

Cut

Cut

Fold



## Hairy Woodpecker

### Characteristics

Back black except for white center stripe,  
outer tail feathers white,  
red patch on back of neck

Cut



## House Finch

### Characteristics

Front of head, throat, and breast reddish-purple;  
reddish-purple spot on rump;  
streaks on sides of belly

Cut



## House Sparrow

### Characteristics

Black throat, rusty-brown neck,  
gray on top of head and belly

Cut

Cut

Fold



## House Wren

### Characteristics

Black barring on tail,  
small size, brownish overall

Cut



## Mallard

### Characteristics

Metallic-green head, white neck ring,  
reddish-brown breast

Cut



## Mourning Dove

### Characteristics

Long, pointed tail; small head;  
gray body; rosy-colored breast

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Northern Bobwhite**

### **Characteristics**

White throat and eye stripe,  
sides striped reddish-brown,  
chunky body

Cut



## **Northern Flicker**

### **Characteristics**

Black bib, black spots on belly,  
shafts of feathers yellow, black barring on back,  
red patch on back of neck

Cut



## **Northern Harrier**

### **Characteristics**

Large white spot at base of tail;  
long, banded tail; brownish overall;  
hooked beak; sharp talons

Cut

Cut

Fold



## Ovenbird

### Characteristics

Orange head stripe bordered by black,  
breast with reddish-brown streaks or spots

Cut



## Red-eyed Vireo

### Characteristics

Gray head with white eye stripe,  
small hook on beak,  
olive body with gray belly

Cut



## Red-tailed Hawk

### Characteristics

Tail red on upper surface,  
reddish-brown spots across belly,  
hooked beak and sharp talons

Cut

Cut

Fold



### **Red-winged Blackbird**

#### **Characteristics**

Body black, red and yellow patches on forewing,  
beak straight and pointed

Cut



### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

#### **Characteristics**

Long, pointed tail with black barring;  
white neck ring; iridescent coloring on head

Cut



### **Rock Dove (Pigeon)**

#### **Characteristics**

Multicolored feathers,  
neck darker than back,  
small head

Cut

Cut

Fold



## Ruby-throated Hummingbird

### Characteristics

Small body;  
long, slender beak;  
iridescent throat

Cut



## Ruffed Grouse

### Characteristics

Tail banded with wide terminal band,  
black ruffs on sides of neck,  
chicken-like in appearance

Cut



## Rufous-sided Towhee

### Characteristics

Sides reddish-brown,  
black head and throat,  
white outer tail feathers

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Song Sparrow**

### **Characteristics**

Large spot on center of breast,  
spotting or streaking along side of breast,  
belly whitish, back brownish

Cut



## **Wild Turkey**

### **Characteristics**

Large size, naked head,  
modified feathers (beard) on breast,  
iridescent body feathers

Cut



## **Wood Duck**

### **Characteristics**

Glossy iridescent body,  
head with large crest,  
reddish-brown breast

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

### **Characteristics**

Yellow rump, yellow throat,  
yellow crown, black breast

Cut



## **Beaver**

### **Characteristics**

Large, broad, and flattened tail;  
fur brown and thick; hind feet webbed

Cut



## **Big Brown Bat**

### **Characteristics**

Black wings, brown fur,  
tail membrane without fur

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Bobcat**

### **Characteristics**

Tail short and black only at tip,  
ear tufts short,  
white spot behind each ear

Cut



## **Coyote**

### **Characteristics**

Resembles medium-sized dog,  
body grizzled-gray or reddish-gray,  
tail often with black tip

Cut



## **Eastern Cottontail**

### **Characteristics**

Large white hind feet; long narrow ears;  
cotton-ball shaped tail, white below;  
neck rusty-reddish color;  
body fur speckled brownish and grayish

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Eastern Fox Squirrel**

### **Characteristics**

Body fur rusty orange mixed with gray,  
long tail with orange-tipped fur,  
belly orange

Cut



## **Eastern Gray Squirrel**

### **Characteristics**

Body fur grayish,  
long tail with white-tipped fur,  
belly whitish

Cut



## **Eastern Mole**

### **Characteristics**

Huge front feet and claws;  
short, naked tail;  
soft, “reversible” body fur;  
no external ears; eyes inconspicuous

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Mink**

### **Characteristics**

Tail long and slightly bushy;  
rich, dark-brown fur;  
patch of white fur on chin

Cut



## **Muskrat**

### **Characteristics**

Body fur rich, dark brown;  
tail long, naked, and compressed from side to side

Cut



## **Raccoon**

### **Characteristics**

Tail with alternating rings of yellowish-white and  
black,  
body fur "salt and peppered,"  
black mask over eyes

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Red Squirrel**

### **Characteristics**

Belly white with black lines along sides,  
tail rusty-red tipped in black

Cut



## **Short-tailed Shrew**

### **Characteristics**

Short, furred tail;  
small eyes, ears, and feet;  
small size; pointed snout

Cut



## **Southern Flying Squirrel**

### **Characteristics**

Tail broad and smoothly furred;  
folded layer of loose skin between front and hind legs;  
soft and silky fur—grayish above; white belly

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Virginia Opossum**

### **Characteristics**

Long, naked, round tail;  
white face with black, leathery ears

Cut



## **White-tailed Deer**

### **Characteristics**

Fawns reddish-brown with white spots,  
white undersides, feet with hooves

Cut



## **Woodchuck**

### **Characteristics**

Body fur grizzled, yellowish-brown, and frosted at tips;  
legs and feet dark brown or black; heavy-bodied

Cut

Cut

Fold



## Meadow Vole

### Characteristics

Body fur dark brown, belly silvery-gray

Cut



## American Toad

### Characteristics

Large warts,  
1–2 warts per dark spot,  
black pigmentation on belly

Cut



## Black Rat Snake

### Characteristics

Body mostly dark with lighter spaces between scales,  
some blotches visible on back,  
belly marked with light and dark squares

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Bluegill**

### **Characteristics**

Black ear flap;  
long, pointed pectoral fin;  
small mouth

Cut



## **Box Turtle**

### **Characteristics**

High, dome-like shell;  
black and yellow streaking on shell

Cut



## **Bullfrog**

### **Characteristics**

Large size,  
no dorso-lateral ridge,  
ridge around eardrum

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Channel Catfish**

### **Characteristics**

Barbels (whiskers) on face,  
spots on sides, forked tail

Cut



## **Copperhead**

### **Characteristics**

Dark bands form hour-glass shape,  
reddish-brown body,  
triangular-shaped head,  
deep facial pits beneath nostril

Cut



## **Crappie**

### **Characteristics**

Deep, compressed body;  
white body with dark spots on side and on fins

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Creek Chub**

### **Characteristics**

Dark spot at base of dorsal fin,  
smooth scales

Cut



## **Eastern Newt**

### **Characteristics**

Rough skin;  
numerous small, black spots on back and sides;  
no scales or claws; laterally compressed tail

Cut



## **Fence Lizard**

### **Characteristics**

Spiny scales,  
long toes with small claws, long tail

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Five-lined Skink**

### **Characteristics**

Smooth, shiny scales;  
long toes with small claws; long tail

Cut



## **Garter Snake**

### **Characteristics**

Three longitudinal stripes along body,  
small head, plain belly

Cut



## **Largemouth Bass**

### **Characteristics**

Large mouth; whitish body with  
broad, dark stripe along side

Cut

Cut

Fold



## Northern Leopard Frog

### Characteristics

Large spots along head and back,  
prominent dorso-lateral ridge

Cut



## Painted Turtle

### Characteristics

Smooth, flattened shell;  
greenish-yellow spot on each side of head; short tail

Cut



## Red-backed Salamander

### Characteristics

Reddish-yellow stripe down back and tail,  
small size, no scales or claws

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **Snapping Turtle**

### **Characteristics**

Large head, long tail,  
shell with prominent ridges

Cut



## **Spring Peeper**

### **Characteristics**

Back with a dark “X” pattern,  
small size, small toepads

Cut



## **Tiger Salamander**

### **Characteristics**

Dark body with large, yellow spots on back,  
side, and belly; no scales or claws

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

**Live trap**

Cut



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

**Hoop net**

Cut



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

**Minnow trap**

Cut

Cut

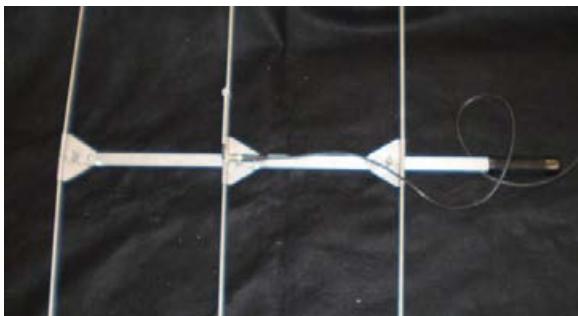
Fold



## WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT

Telemetry receiver

Cut



## WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT

Telemetry antenna

Cut



## WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT

Transmitter/collar

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

GPS unit

Cut



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

Pesola scale

Cut



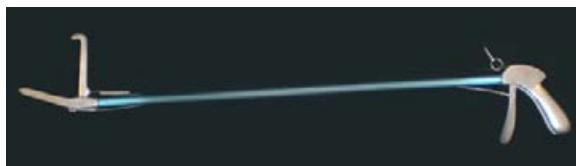
## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

Calipers

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

Snake tongs



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

Ear tags



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

Pneumatic dart gun

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

Chemical immobilization darts

Cut



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

Jabstick

Cut



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

Leg bands

Cut

Cut

Fold



## **WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT**

**Rocket net**

Cut

Cut

Cut



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