



A

Are you ready to learn about what **animals** are in Wisconsin's woods? Wisconsin is home to critters small and large, from squirrels to one of the largest animals in Wisconsin—elk.



B

Badgers are Wisconsin's state animal. They are carnivores (meat eaters) that hunt during the night and stay hidden in underground dens during the day. This makes them hard to spot!





C

Special **cameras** (called trail cameras) are used by scientists to study wildlife. They are placed in the woods and take a photo every time a wild animal walks in front of the camera.

D

White-tailed **deer** are the most common animal captured on Snapshot Wisconsin trail cameras. They are found all throughout Wisconsin. Deer leave behind heart-shaped tracks. Look for these tracks next time you are in the woods!



E

Endangered species are living things that are at risk of extinction or dying out. They often require special protections so that their numbers can grow. The American marten (shown here) is an example of a species that is endangered in Wisconsin.

Source: <http://eekwi.org/>

Source: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources>

Photo: Wisconsin DNR



F

Fur helps animals to keep warm in winter. Other types of hair are protective (like the quills of a porcupine) or help animals feel their surroundings (like whiskers). Hair color can help camouflage animals by matching the environment they live in.



G

The **gray fox** is the smallest canid (member of the dog family) found in Wisconsin. Gray foxes are easily identified by their gray coat and a dark stripe along their back, down to the tip of their tail. One thing that makes gray foxes extra special is their ability to climb trees.



H

Hibernation is one way that Wisconsin critters survive our cold and snowy winters. Hibernation is a deep, deep sleep. To prepare for hibernation animals must eat as much as possible. Because they will not be eating much during winter, they must put on lots of weight.



|

Invasive species are plants and animals that come to Wisconsin from different countries or habitats. These species cause problems when they cause damage to animals or plants found here. For example, the Emerald ash borer is an invasive insect that is hurting Wisconsin's ash trees.



Source: <http://eekwi.org/>

Source: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/emeraldashborer.html>

J

The blue **j**ay is easily identified by its bright blue color and the crest on top of its head. These birds are common throughout the year in Wisconsin. Small birds like the blue jay are rarely captured on trail cameras because they are too small to trigger the camera.



K

Help to **keep wildlife wild!** Wild animals can be stressed by sights and sounds from people. If you see a wild animal, it is best to view them from a safe distance. Enjoy wildlife in their natural habitat by being quiet and still. Tell an adult if you see if an animal you think is hurt or orphaned.



L

Loons can be found on lakes in northern Wisconsin during the summer. In the fall, Loons travel long distances south to stay warm during the winter months. Loons are excellent at moving through the water and diving deep to feast on fish, frogs, and other goodies.

Photo: Wisconsin DNR

Source: <http://eekwi.org/>



M

Mink are small furry mammals that love spending time near the water. They have partially webbed toes that help them to swim and get around on muddy stream and river banks. Minks can be found throughout the state of Wisconsin.



N

Nocturnal animals are those active mostly at night. Flying squirrels are an example of a nocturnal animal. They have large eyes that help them to see at night. They do not actually fly, but can glide from tree to tree using skin that extends from their wrist to their hind foot.

Source: <http://eekwi.org/>



O

Omnivores are animals that eat both plants and animals. Omnivores include raccoons, opossums, and bears. You can tell what these animals have recently eaten by looking at their scat (poo). Some times it contains berry seeds and other times fur.

Source: <http://eekwi.org/>



P

A **porcupine** is a medium sized mammal that has sharp quills. Porcupines like to climb trees and sleep during the day.





Q

The **queensnake** is an endangered species in Wisconsin, making it rare to see . The queensnake lives in streams and eats frogs, snails, and minnows. It is yellowish brown with three black stipes that run down its back.

Photo: Florida Fish & Wildlife

Source: <http://eekwi.org/>

R

Cottontail **rabbits** are another species commonly captured on Snapshot Wisconsin trail cameras. These rabbits have short ears and big hind feet. Unlike snowshoe hares (which turn white in the winter), cottontails stay brown all year round.



S

The **striped skunk** has distinctive black and white stripes telling you to keep your distance. To defend themselves, they can spray a stinky musk at predators as far as 15 feet away. The smell can carry for up to a mile! Watch out deer!



T

Turkeys are one of Wisconsin's most recognizable birds. Adult males have a “beard” growing just below their neck. These beards are actually a bristly mass of feathers.



U

Urban areas (cities or towns) do not usually make good homes for wildlife. However a few species have learned to live around humans.



A woman in a plaid shirt stands at the front of a room, presenting to a group of people seated at tables. A large screen displays a blue slide. A whiteboard with handwritten notes is visible behind her. A laptop on a table in the foreground shows a 'SNAPSHOT' logo. A blue bag sits on the table in the foreground.

V

Many **volunteers** help to track and monitor wildlife in Wisconsin. Volunteers who participate in research with scientists are called “citizen scientists.”

W

The gray **wolf** is Wisconsin's largest canid (a mammal of the dog family). Wolves are social animals and live in a family group or pack. The pack is usually made up of 6-10 wolves. Wolves require a lot of space. A pack's territory can cover between 20 and 120 square miles.



A photograph of a lynx walking across a snowy landscape. The lynx has thick, greyish-brown fur and prominent tufted ears. It is walking towards the right of the frame. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing a large black 'X' and a horizontal line below it.

X

Canada **lynx** are very uncommon in Wisconsin and we only see rare visitors from Canada. They are built for surviving in winter; they have large feet covered in fur that allow them to walk on the top of the snow.

Source: <http://eekwi.org/>

Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/keithmwilliams/>

Y

A **yearling** is an animal that is about one year old. Many young live with their parents until new young are born the next year. As they grow to adulthood, most young wildlife leave the area where they grew up to find a territory or home of their own.



Z

Zzzzzzzzz.....Like people, animals need their rest. Occasionally we catch animals taking a nap in front the Snapshot Wiscosin cameras, like the elk in this picture.

