Bald Eagle

Brine Fly

Black-crowned Night Heron

Wandering Shrew
I hatch from eggs laid on water, becoming a swimming caterpillar and then turning into a fly. A lot of my neighbors are out to eat me, including small birds, shrews, and spiders. I guess it’s a good thing there are so many of my species out here!

My pointed nose is good for hunting spiders and insects, like ants. I make a home for myself out of plants and animal hair. I hide from predators like weasels in underground tunnels dug by gophers. I find my way inside these dark burrows by using my great sense of hearing.

I love to eat fish, but I’m not too picky. Sometimes I hunt mammals and ducks, and sometimes I help clean up wetlands by eating animals that are already dead!

I build one of the largest nests of any bird, using sticks lined with grasses and other tall plants, like cattails.

I hide in tall wetland plants like cattails while I hunt at night and rest during the day. I hunt lots of different kinds of animals, including fish, shrews, frogs, and snakes.

I use sticks from plants like dogwood to build my nest.
Garter Snake

Narrow-leaved Cattail

Water

Hydric Soil
I am grow best in water-logged (hydric) soils! In fact, I need lots of water to survive.

The wind helps pollinate my flowers. Birds in wetlands use my grasses to hide in and the furry seeds in my “corndogs” to build their nests.

For a habitat to be considered a wetland, I must be present for at least some of the year. I am necessary for survival for nearly every species of plant and animal.

I slither through wetlands in search of fish and small mammals, such as shrews. I am ever-watchful of my predators, which include herons and hawks.

I am a special soil found only in wetlands. I am very soggy, and hold much less oxygen than other types of soils. Only certain plants, like cattails and dogwoods, can survive in me.
Long-tailed Weasel

Wind

Chorus Frog

Spider
When I blow I help pollinate plants so they can grow seeds, and then I help scatter these seeds across the soil.

Birds, like hawks and eagles, rely on me.

I’m mostly brown, but I turn white in winter to make me harder to see in snow. I like to live near water and I’m a great swimmer.

My long, thin body helps me hunt small mammals and birds where they hide, and I sometimes even catch rabbits twice my size!

I build a new huge, beautiful web between plants every morning to trap flies and other insects.

People think I’m creepy, but I eat lots of pesky bugs.

If I’m not careful, I can become a meal for a bird, frog, or shrew.

I’m only about the size of a human thumb.

Males of my species “sing” together on spring nights to attract girlfriends. Sitting in shallow water, we make sound by forcing air through our throats, which inflate like little balloons.

We like to eat lots of insects. Our predators include herons and snakes.
Marsh Wren

Red-tailed Hawk

Black Carpenter Ant

June Sucker Fish
You’ll hear my noisy song more than you’ll see my tiny brown body zipping through the cattails in search of a tasty spider or insect. My round nest is about the size of a soccer ball, which I weave from long dead leaves onto the tall stalk of a wetland plant.

I can only be found in Utah! I eat zooplankton that I find floating in the water. The roots of cattails help keep my eggs from washing away or being covered in soil.

I have to watch out for predators, like herons. If the wind picks up too much the water might get too murky for me to survive.

I chew holes in dead trees to make my nests. In this way, I help decompose old wood and make new soil.

I eat plant sap and small insects. Shrews, spiders, and small birds eat me.
I am a kind of tiny animal that floats in the water. Most of us are so tiny you can’t see us without a microscope!

Fish and ducks love to eat us, and we rely on plants growing near the water to keep our home clean.

You can find me in hydric soils because I need lots of water to grow. My roots help keep soil from washing away.

My berries provide food for many birds, including woodpeckers. My leaves provide a place to hide for insects and spiders.

I am a duck that spends most of its day diving in the water to look for tiny plants and zooplankton to eat. I make my nest in holes in trees made by northern flickers.

I live in groups so there are more eyes to watch for my predators, which include red-tailed hawks.

I am a woodpecker and I use my beak to drill holes in trees to make my nests. My old tree holes provide nests for other animals like buffleheads.

I like to eat ants, berries, and spiders.