

Mini 4-H

Wildlife



1st Grade

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.

Mini 4-H Parent's Page

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through this project. We suggest that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is “Learn by doing” and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Purdue Extension- Hancock County at 317-462-1113 or hancockces@purdue.edu



Mini 4-H

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun. There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share it with your friends and family.

An adult can help you with your project, and you can bring your project to the 4-H fair. Many people will be able to see what you have done. You will receive a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H.

The 4-H fair is an exciting time for 4-H members and families. It is a week that allows community youth to show their talents, interests, and enthusiasm for learning!

4-H Symbol: A Four leaf clover with an H in each leaf

4-H Colors: Green and white

4-H Motto: To make the best, better

4-H Pledge: I pledge my Head to clearer thinking

My Heart to greater loyalty

My Hands to larger service and

My Health to better living,

For my club, my community

my country, and my world.



Mini 4-H Wildlife

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Wildlife project! If you like animals then this is the perfect 4-H project. In this project you will learn about different wildlife and create a poster about them

What will I do?

This year in your wildlife project you will learn about three birds: a belted kingfisher, a mallard duck and a barn owl. You will use all three birds to color and mount on a poster for the fair.

The information in this book is only a beginning. There are many more exciting things that you can learn about these birds. You may want to visit the library and find other books on animals. You could look these animals up, with an adults help, to look at the correct colors and more facts about these birds.



Belted Kingfisher

This chunky birds with its large head and windblown crest looks something like an oversized blue jay with brown on the sides and chest. In the spring and summer kingfisher can be found almost anywhere in the United States and Canada where there is water and fish. In the winter they fly south to stay warm.

The kingfisher perches on branches overhanging the water and watches. It dives down in a flash and usually comes up with a fish in its long bill. The kingfisher nests in a burrow in sand banks, river banks, or bluffs. The nest is lined with fish bones, scales, leaves, and grass. The female kingfisher lays five to eight shiny eggs. The male and female will take turn incubating the eggs.

Belted kingfishers make a loud rattling or chattering call. You will usually hear the bird before you see it.



Mallard Duck

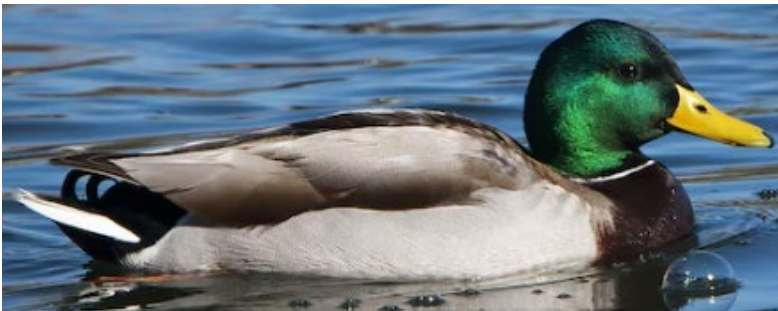
Mallard ducks are the most common wild duck in the United States. Mallard ducks can be found near ponds, marshes, streams, and lakes. They feed on plants, fish, and insects. Mallard ducks eat by tipping underwater for food- head down, feet and tail in the air- rather than diving! Mallards will also forage on land for food.

A male mallard duck is called a drake. The males have glossy green heads, a white ring around its neck and a chestnut brown chest. The female mallards are a mottled brown and can appear as dull next to the males. Mallard duck's outer feathers are waterproof. Beneath those feathers lies a soft, warm layer of feather called down. Mallards will molt or shed their flight feathers twice a year.

Mallards fly in groups called flocks. They fly in a V formation. During winter migration mallards will fly south to find warmer weather, often going back to the same spots each year.

Female mallards lay up to a dozen eggs in nests on the ground near water.

She will line the nest with warm down plucked from her undercoat. Baby ducks are called ducklings and a day after hatching they can run, swim, and forage for food. They stay close to their mother and will leave the nest about a month after hatching.



Barn Owl

A barn owl is a medium-sized owl that is active at night. They have strong talons and beak for hunting. A barn owl has a white heart-shaped face and white chest with brown spots. The back is brownish marked with black and white spots. The male and female barn owl are similar in color, but the females are larger, darker, and more spotted than males. Barn owls have a long wingspan and are silent when they fly. Their wingspan is around 40-50 inches!

Barn owls can be found almost everywhere! They are found on all continents except Antarctica. They can live in many different habitats like deserts, grasslands, forests, fields, and urban areas. During the winter they will often roost in conifer trees or barns.

Barn owls build nests in hollow trees, buildings, or nest boxes. The female owl lays between 2-11 eggs and sits on them for 29-34 days to hatch. Young owls will begin to fly when they are around 60 days old.

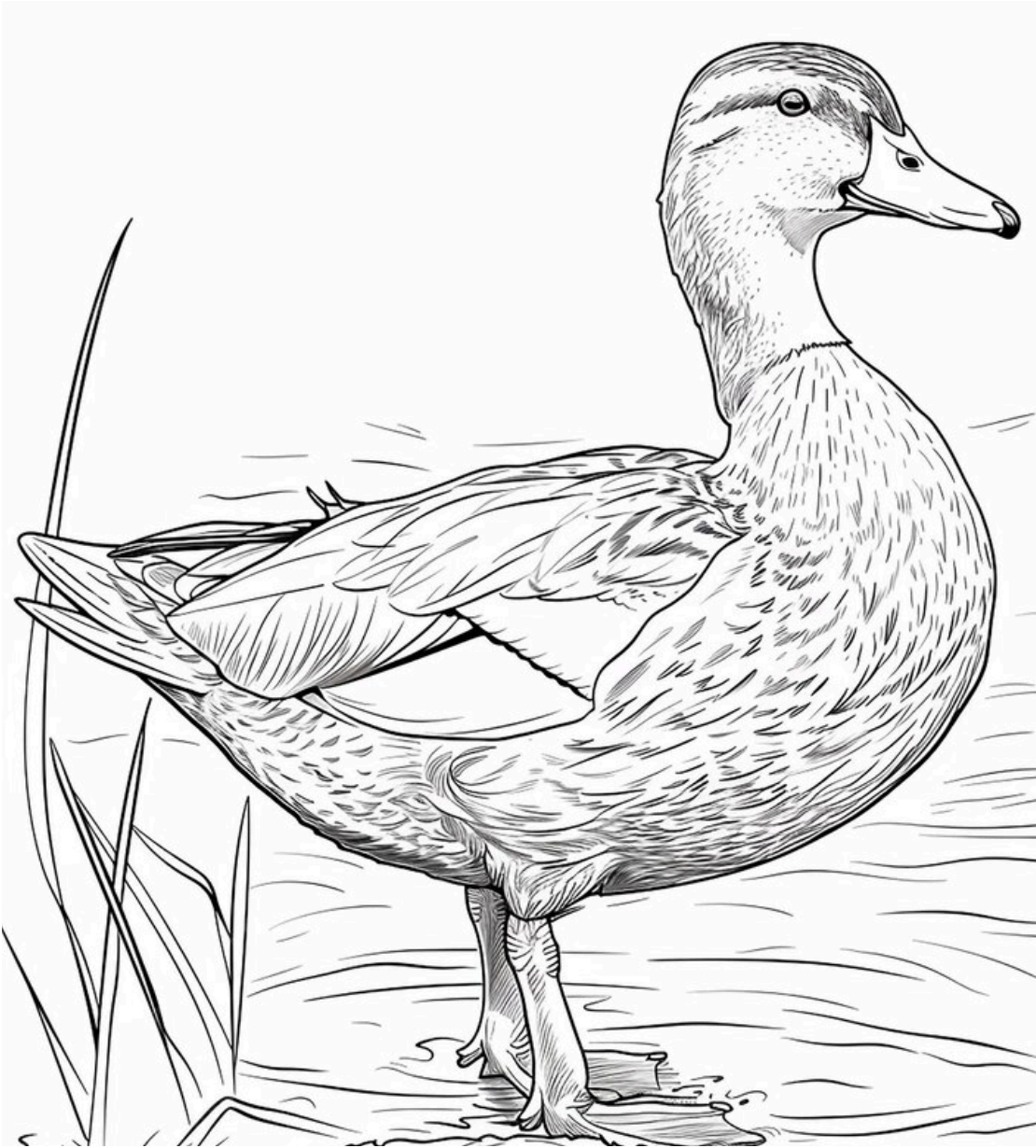
Barn owls have excellent vision and can easily find prey at night by sight. They also use their excellent hearing to locate small prey in the dark. Owls hunt at night and can find food in complete darkness.



**Belted
Kingfisher**



Mallard Duck





Barn Owl

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Name: _____

Grade: _____

Project: _____

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