

Mini 4-H

Wildlife



2nd 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 and three animals. The bluebird, great horned owl, pileated woodpecker, red fox, gray squirrel, and chipmunk. You will choose two birds and two animals to put on your poster.

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.

Information in this manual was sourced from
kids.nationalgeographic.com



Eastern Bluebird

Eastern bluebirds can be found in the eastern parts of the North and Central America from southern Canada into the country Nicaragua. The eastern bluebird is the state bird of New York and Missouri. These birds are often found on trees or fences that border meadows.

The bird has a round belly, long wings, and short legs. Its black bill is straight and short. Male bluebirds are easily identified by their bright blue heads and wings. Females sport duller colors, with grayish heads and backs and bluish wings. Both males and females have a rust-colored throat and white stomach.

Eastern bluebirds mostly eat beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. When the weather is cooler and insects are limited, they will also eat fruits and berries.

Bluebirds are skilled fliers and have great vision. They can spot insects from 60 feet away! Eastern bluebirds often sing and use their voice to communicate with other bluebirds. Their nest is small and cup like and are usually built in old woodpecker holes. Their eggs are pale blue. Most baby birds will leave the nest after three weeks from hatching.



Great Horned Owl

Great horned owls don't have horns! They got their name for the feathers that sit on top of its head. Some scientist believe that have these feathers to help other owls recognize them or to blend into their surroundings in trees.

The great horned owl is one of the most common owls in North America. They can be found in a range of habitats like forests, swamps, deserts, tundra edges, tropical rain forests, cities, suburbs, and parks. You have probably heard a great horned owl; they make the deep, soft, stuttering hoots: hoo-h'HOO-hoo-hoo. They can also whistle, bark, shriek, hiss, coo and cry.

They are nocturnal birds, so you are likely to see or hear them at night. They have big eyes, can swivel their head in all the way around and have short but wide wings. They are extremely quiet. They eat a wide variety of prey and spend a lot of their time looking for food.

The great horned owl is very protective and are great parents. They usually nest in an unused large bird nest and will defend it at all costs. Baby great horned owls are ready to fly between 10-12 weeks old.



Pileated Woodpecker

The pileated woodpecker is one of the largest woodpecker species in North America. It is a large black bird with white on each side of its neck and red crest on its head. When it flies, white flashes are visible under its wings.

The sound of the pileated woodpecker's hammering carries a long distance through the woods where they live. They drum on the sides of trees to attract mates and to establish their territory.

They use their beak to peck and dig under bark to find carpenter ants, beetle larvae, and other insects. They usually dig large holes in trees while uncover their food.

A nesting pair of pileated woodpeckers usually makes a nesting hole in a large, older tree. During the day, both parents take turn sitting on the eggs. At night, the male will sit on the eggs. The female usually lays four eggs at a time and usually take two weeks to hatch.



Red Fox

A red fox can look similar to some of your favorite pets, but these animals are wild! They have long whiskers, retractable claws, and excellent night vision.

They are usually red in color and this is where they get their name! They have dense, soft fur and a bushy tail. Red foxes are very vocal and have lots of sounds and communication methods.

To avoid humans, the skillful fox hunts at night and alone. They hunt wooded areas and are sometimes pushed to suburbs during development. They will hunt in gardens, parks and backyards if necessary.

Although they hunt alone, both red fox parents will take care of their kits (baby fox). Parents will take turns hunting for food and bringing it back to the kits. Kits will stay with their parents for about seven months. Red foxes use dens as homes, they are usually on the edges of forests, near fields where hunting would be good. The red fox is a very resourceful animal and is capable of surviving in a variety of environments.



Eastern Gray Squirrel

There are over 200 species of squirrels living around the world! The Eastern Gray squirrel is common to see in parks, backyards, and wooded areas. The eastern gray squirrel forages on nuts, seeds, buds, and flowers. As winter approaches, squirrels carry their food and bury it in several locations.

Eastern gray squirrels have an excellent sense of smell. Which they use to help locate food that they've hidden away. They can also pick up information about their fellow squirrels by smelling them.

They communicate with each other by making sounds and body movements, such as tail flicking. When predators like red foxes are nearby, the squirrels will often send of warning sounds to other squirrels.

The female squirrel will build a nest of leaves and twigs and build high in the trees for their babies. They may also use tree dens. The female squirrel will care for the babies and usually has two to four. Baby squirrels will leave the nest around 10-12 weeks old.



Chipmunk

Chipmunks are part of the squirrel family! Chipmunks are actually smaller, with alternating light and dark stripe along their cheeks and backs.

Chipmunks are common in North America.

They are excellent tree climbers and swimmers. They can live in a variety of habitats, such as mountains, forests, deserts, and plains. Chipmunks like to live alone in holes or burrow called dens.

Chipmunks hibernate in cold weather, which means they spend the winter sleeping. Chipmunks gather several acorns a day to help them get through the cold. They can gather up to 165 acorns a day! They use their cheeks as storage when gathering acorns.

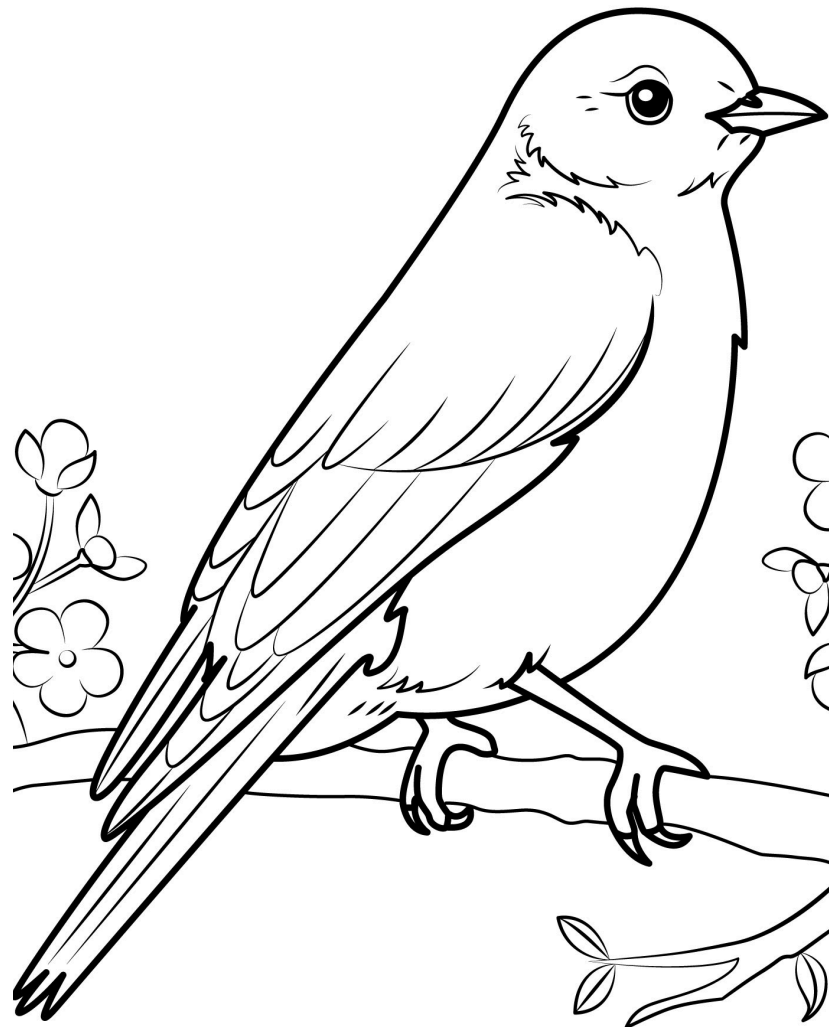
Baby chipmunks are usually born in the spring and stay in the nest for six weeks. Female chipmunks usually have 4 to 5 babies at a time.





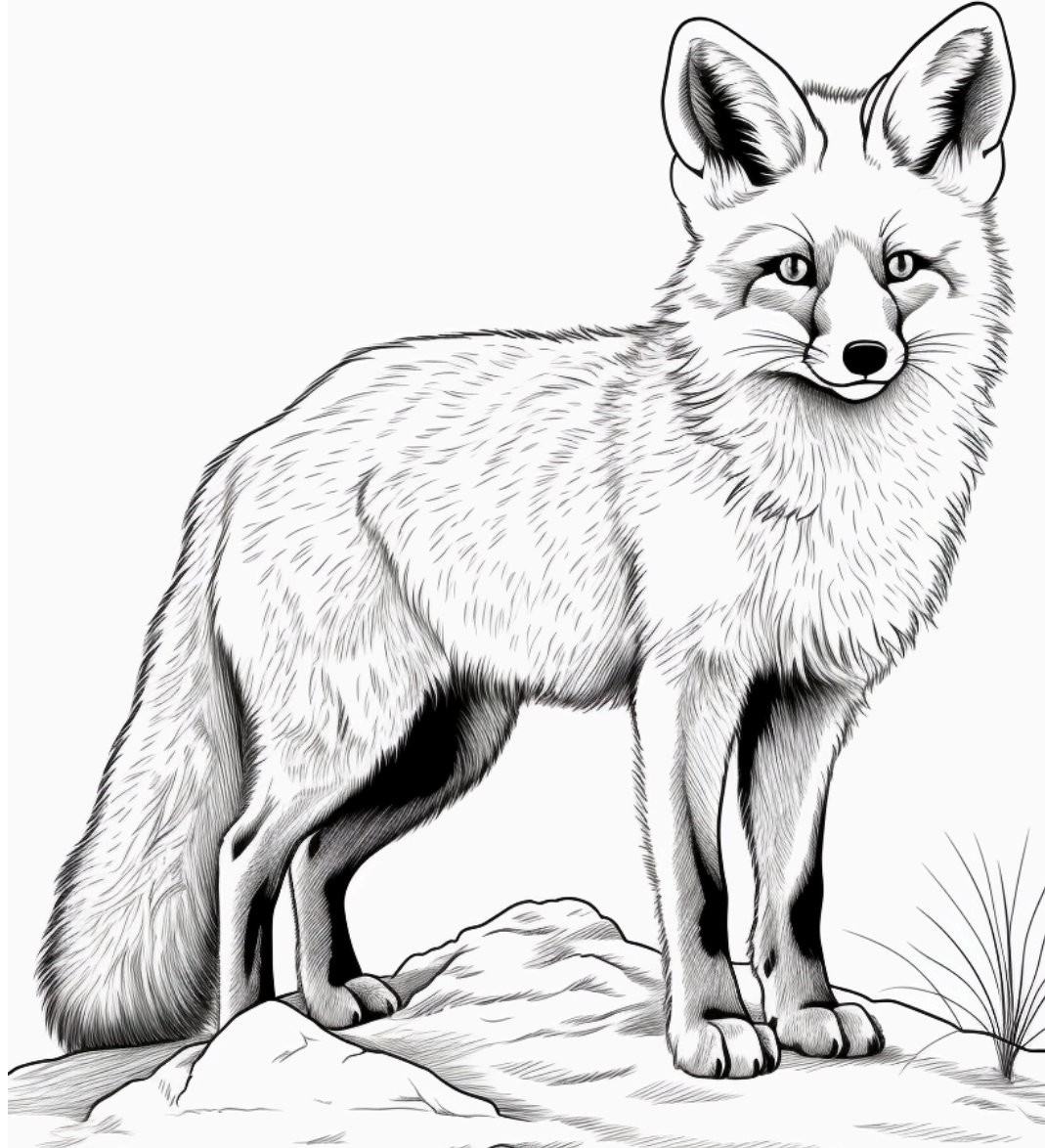
Great Horned Owl

Eastern Bluebird



**Pileated
Woodpecker**

Red Fox





Eastern Gray Squirrel

Chipmunk

Mini 4-H

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Project: _____