



MASS**WILDLIFE**

Wildlife Identification

Objectives

You will be able to:

- explain the importance of wildlife identification skills for hunting.
- identify game species and their distinguishing features.

Why is Wildlife ID Important for Hunters?



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Why is Wildlife ID Important for Hunters?

- Legal
- Safe
- Ethical



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Wildlife in Massachusetts

- How many species of wild mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians are in MA?
- What percentage (%) may be hunted?

What makes a species a game animal?



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

What makes a species a game animal?

- Useful
- Abundant and Renewable
- Provides a Unique or Traditional Challenge



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

State Fish & Wildlife agencies categorize animals.

- Big Game
- Small Game
- Upland birds
- Migratory birds
- Non-game animals

The Basics of Wildlife Id

- General Description
- Habitat
- Range
- Behavior
- Wildlife Sign

General Description

- Size

- Weight, length, height; comparisons can help

- Appearance

- Color, field markings, **distinguishing features**
 - Does it vary seasonally?
 - Does it vary by age or gender?
 - males and females can be noticeably different (i.e., most birds) while some differ seasonally (i.e., white tailed deer).

Habitat

- The type of habitat where a species lives
- Habitat preferences may change seasonally

Range

- Knowing geographic distributions makes it easier to find and identify animals
- Many birds are migratory

Behavior

- The time of day the animal is active?
- Does the animal migrate?
- Does the animal hibernate?
- Is it a social or solitary species?
- What does it eat?

Wildlife Sign

- Feeding evidence
- Hair/feathers
- Tracks, trails
- Droppings and other sign
(i.e., owl pellets, otter toilets)
- Den, nest, or shelter
- Scrapes, rubs, etc.
- Sounds

Time for you to try!



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Focus on the following:

- Am I a game species?
- How big am I?
- Describe my appearance?
 - Does it change by age or season?
 - Do males and females look different?
- Do I have any distinguishing field marks?
- What type of habitat do I live in?
- What is my range in Massachusetts?
- Do I migrate? - Do I hibernate?
- At what time of day am I most active?
- What do I eat?

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Black Bear

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

White Tailed Deer

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Eastern Wild Turkey

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Eastern Coyote

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Moose

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Eastern Cottontail

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Ruffed Grouse

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Common Loon

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Eastern Bluebird

Name This Animal



Photo credit: USFWS/George Gentry

Name This Animal



Photo credit: USFWS/George Gentry

Red-winged
Blackbird

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Black-capped Chickadee

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Mallard

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Wood Duck

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Canada Goose

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

American Woodcock

Name This Animal



Photo credit: Mass. Division Fisheries & Wildlife/Bill Byrne

Name This Animal



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Peregrine Falcon