Wetland Habitat Flashcards

Wetlands



What is a wetland?

A wetland is an area that usually holds shallow, slow-moving, or stationary water. Animals and plants living in or near wetlands are adapted to and often dependent on wet conditions for at least one part of their life cycle. An area does not need to be wet constantly to be considered a wetland. Water and soil moisture levels change and wetlands can sometimes even be dry for part of the year.

Why are wetlands important?

There are many reasons wetlands are important. Most obviously, wetlands provide essential breeding, nesting, feeding, and cover habitat for many species of wildlife, especially migratory birds and amphibians. Wetlands also act as giant filters and clean the water that will eventually enter streams, rivers and underground aquifers by absorbing silt, sediments and decomposing organic matter. Erosion and flooding is held in check by wetlands slowing down, holding and then slowly releasing water. In these ways, wetlands benefit all other habitats.

Where are wetlands in Wyoming?

Wetlands occur on the prairies, between the rolling hills, in the mountains and they even occur in the deserts. Wetlands make up only 2% of Wyoming's land area but they provide food, water and shelter for over 80% of Wyoming's wildlife.

Racoon Muskrat



Western Grebe



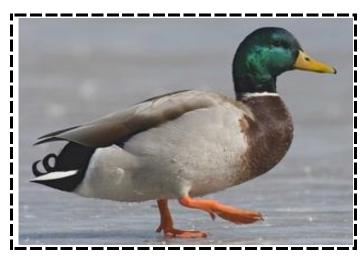
Sandhill Crane



Mallard



Red-winged Blackbird



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American Avocet



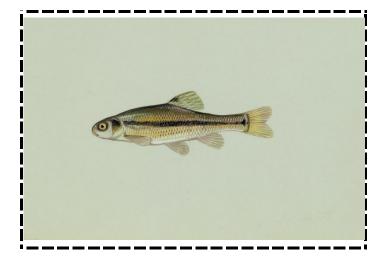
Northern Leopard Frog



Painted Turtle



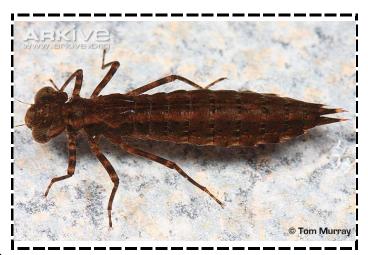
Fathead Minnow



Tiger Salamander



Blue Darner (larvae)



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Blue Darner (adult) Crayfish No. of the last of Broadleaf cattail Pondweed The Sun

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Muskrat Racoon

Name: Racoon Scientific Name: Procyon lotor Predators: Raptors, fox

Prey or Food: Eggs, crayfish, berries, garbage

Did you know? Racoons will "wash" their hands

and food before eating

Western Grebe Sandhill Crane

Name: Western Grebe

Scientific Name: Aechmophorus occidentalis

Predators: Racoons will eat eggs Prey or Food: Fish, aquatic insects

Did you know? These birds build floating nests.

Did you know? courtship "dance" with leaps,

hops, and bowing with wings

These birds have a beautiful

outstretched.

Mallard Red-winged Blackbird

Name: Mallard

Scientific Name: Anas platyrhynchos Predators: Coyotes, humans

Prey or Food: Aquatic plants/algae

Did you know? Only male mallards have the

> signature green head, the females are a drab brown.

Scientific Name: Agelaius phoeniceus Predators: Racoons, snakes, raptors, fox, coyote

Name: Red-winged Blackbird

Prey or Food: Insects, seeds

Name: Muskrat

Scientific Name: Ondatra zibethicus

Predators: Racoons, Fox, Raptors

Prey or Food: Cattails, sedges, crayfish

Name: Sandhill Crane

Predators: Racoons, raptors

Prey or Food: Grains, insects, frogs

Scientific Name: Grus canadensis

Did you know? You can tell a muskrat den from a

beaver den because they use only leaves not branches.

Did you know? These birds are very protective of

their nests, they'll chase away much larger birds and other

predators.

American Avocet

Fathead Minnow

Name: American Avocet

Scientific Name: Recurvirostra americana

Predators: Dogs, raptors, raccoons and foxes eat eggs

Prey or Food: Aquatic insects

Did you know? Avocets use their long up-curved bills to probe mud and shallow

water for food.

Name: Fathead Minnow

Scientific Name: Pimephales promelas

Predators: Fish, snakes, birds, salamanders

Prey or Food: Aquatic insects, algae

Did you know?

This minnows are a great biological control of mosquito

larvae.

Northern Leopard Frog

Name: Northern Leopard Frog

Scientific Name: Rana pipiens

Predators: Fish, snakes, birds, salamanders

Prey or Food: Insects, small birds, snakes

Did you know? Much of Wyoming's leopard frog

population is suffering from a

infectious disease caused by a

fungus.

Tiger Salamander

Name: Tiger Salamander

Scientific Name: Ambystoma tigrinum

Predators: Racoons, turtles, birds

Prey or Food: Aquatic insects

Did you know? Some tiger salamanders live their

entire lives underwater while

others live in moist areas above

ground.

Painted Turtle

Blue Darner (larvae)

Name: Painted Turtle

Scientific Name: Chrysemys picta bellii

Predators: Fox (eggs), raccoon (adults)

Prey or Food: Crayfish, aquatic insects and plants

Did you know? Painted turtles get their name

from their brightly colored

carapace, or shell.

Name: Blue Darner (larvae) Scientific Name: Aeshna multicolor

Predators: Frogs, turtles, snakes, water birds, fish

Prey or Food: Aquatic insects

Did you know? These juvenile dragonflies are

voracious predators of water

insects.

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Blue Darner (adult)

Name: Blue Darner (adult)

Prey or Food: Mosquitos, flies, gnats

Scientific Name: Aeshna multicolor

Crayfish

Name: Crayfish

Scientific Name: Orconectus spp.

Predators: Racoons, turtles, birds, fish, frogs, humans

Prey or Food: Aquatic plants, snails, decomposing matter

Did you know? Crayfish, or crawdads, are related

to lobsters, shrimp, and crabs.

Did you know? The adult dragonfly is a voracious

Predators: Frogs, turtles, snakes, water birds, fish

predator of other flying insects.

Broadleaf cattail

Name: Broadleaf cattail

Pondweed

Name: Pondweed

Scientific Name: Potamogeton spp.

Predators: Fish, waterfowl, turtles

Prey or Food: Water, sun, soil, air

Predators: Muskrat, ducks, geese, birds (seed)
Prey or Food: Water, sun, soil, air

Scientific Name: Typha latifolia

Did you know? Cattails are important hunting

perches for many wetland birds.

Did you know?

In spring, wetlands will be brown

from rain and snowmelt, but as summer comes, algae growing in

ponds turn waters green.

The Sun

Plants use the sun's energy to grow through a process known as photosynthesis. Because plants are the beginning of all food chains, all plants and animals transfer the sun's energy when they eat.