

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
This evergreen tree has long needles (3 – 5 cm long). Its seeds are found in rock-hard cones that only open after a fire or in the hot sun. Lodgepole pine is one of the first species to return after a forest fire.

**CLUES:**

1. I'm an evergreen of the foothills.
2. I have rock-hard cones.
3. I am one of the first tree species to grow after a forest fire.

**LOGEPOLE PINE**  
*Pinus contorta*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** At risk

**HABITAT:**  
Rocky Mountains (above 1300 m elevation)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
This evergreen is one of the longest lived tree species in the Canadian Rockies. One individual tree near the Alberta-BC border is more than 880 years old. My cones contain nutritious seeds that can only be opened by certain species such as Clark's nutcrackers.

**CLUES:**

1. I am an evergreen that only lives in the mountains.
2. My seeds are the primary food source for nutcrackers.
3. My cones do not open by themselves. Animals must open the cones in order for the seeds to be released.

**WHITEBARK PINE**  
*Pinus albicaulis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Boreal forest, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
Tamaracks are conifers but they are not evergreen. Their needles turn bright yellow and drop of each autumn. Tamarack grows best in bogs or wetlands.

**CLUES:**

1. People enjoy looking at my beautiful yellow fall colour.
2. My seeds are found in cones, as they are with pine trees.
3. Although I am a conifer, I am deciduous.

**TAMARACK**  
*Larix laricina*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
The deciduous aspen is Alberta's most common tree. Aspen **clone** themselves by sending shoots, called suckers, up from their shallow, spreading root systems. The aspen's thin-stemmed leaves flutter, even in gentle breezes.

**CLUES:**

1. I am found in all regions of Alberta.
2. Although I make seeds, my main method of reproduction is sending up suckers, or new trees, from my roots.
3. My leaves "tremble" in the wind.

**TREMBLING ASPEN**  
*Populus tremuloides*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Boreal forest, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
White or paper birch is a deciduous tree that grows on moist soils. It releases clouds of seeds on windy days in fall and winter. Its papery bark was used extensively by First Nations people to make baskets, boxes, baby cradles, bread pans, cups and other things.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a deciduous plant.
2. My white bark seems like paper to many people.
3. I like to live in places with plenty of moisture.



**PAPER BIRCH**  
*Betula papyrifera*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
Englemann spruce is a conifer with short needles, found above 1,200 m elevation in the Rocky Mountains. It is very similar to white spruce. Its seeds are an important source of food for squirrels and birds.

**CLUES:**

1. I tend to grow at high elevations in the Rocky Mountains.
2. My seeds are enclosed in cones and are a favourite of squirrels.
3. I am very similar to white spruce.



**ENGLEMANN SPRUCE**  
*Picea engelmannii*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not Endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Rocky Mountains, foothills and boreal forest

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
This evergreen shrub has short, prickly needles. Its very bitter berries are eaten by squirrels, grouse and bohemian waxwings.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a low-spreading shrub.
2. I am an evergreen.
3. I produce bitter, green berries.



**COMMON JUNIPER**  
*Juniperus communis*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Boreal forest, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
This deciduous shrub is most common in the aspen parkland. It produces small, hard "hazelnuts" each fall. The nuts are a favourite food of birds, bears, squirrels, mice and voles.

**CLUES:**

1. I am one of the most common parkland plants.
2. I produce food for many species of animals.
3. My seeds are small, hard nuts that are a favourite food of birds.



**BEAKED HAZELNUT**  
*Corylus cornuta*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Boreal forest

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The bog willow is a shrub and, like many willows, it prefers moist habitats. This is one of many species of willow that grow in Alberta. They can be very difficult to distinguish, from each other.

**CLUES:**

1. I am part of a large plant family that is very common in Alberta.
2. I am found in wet areas, such as swamps and fens.
3. I have spring flowers that are known as catkins.

**BOG WILLOW**

*Salix pedicellaris*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**

This common deciduous shrub has distinctive red bark, small white flowers and white berries. Bears, birds and squirrels seek its juicy berries, while moose browse its branches in winter.

**CLUES:**

1. My red bark really stands out in winter.
2. Some animals like to eat my white berries.
3. I have small, white flowers in summer.

**RED OSIER DOGWOOD**

*Cornus stolonifera*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** At risk

**HABITAT:**  
All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The sweet berries of the Saskatoon are enjoyed by humans and many other animal species. They were an important source of food for First Nations people.

**CLUES:**

1. I am one of Alberta's most widespread shrub species.
2. I have small, rounded leaves.
3. I am much loved for my sweet berries.

**SASKATOON**

*Amelanchier alnifolia*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

This tree is found growing along rivers and streams of the prairies in southern Alberta. Its cottony seeds are produced in vast numbers and blow around like snow in summer.

**CLUES:**

1. I am found only in the south of the province.
2. I usually grow in river valleys where there is more moisture.
3. My seeds are like cotton fluff.

**NARROWLEAF COTTONWOOD**

*Populus augustifolia*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Twining honeysuckle is a flowering vine that is most often found in aspen forests. It can grow up to 5 m tall, twining around the trunks of deciduous trees. It has pretty, orangy-yellow flowers and red berries.

**CLUES:**

1. I have clusters of orangy-yellow flowers in spring, followed by red berries.
2. I am a climbing plant that uses other plants for support.
3. I am often found growing in aspen forests.

**TWINING HONEYSUCKLE**

*Lonicera dioica, var glaucescens*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, parkland, Rocky Mountains and foothills

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The flowers of lungwort change colours according to the pH of the sap. They start out pink, turn blue as they mature and the sap becomes more basic, then go back to pink as they age. It is only in the blue phase when they attract insects. The insects can see blue but not pink.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a flowering plant sometimes called a bluebell.
2. My flowers are usually blue, but sometimes pink.
3. My name refers to my use in herbal medicine.

**TALL LUNGWORT**

*Mertensia paniculata*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Grasslands

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The leaves of the milkweed contain a poison that causes severe muscle spasms, seizures, depression and weakness in animals that consume it. Monarch butterfly larvae (caterpillar) incorporate the poison into their bodies as a defense mechanism.

**CLUES:**

1. The fluffy down from my seed casings was used by First Nations people to insulate moccasins.
2. My leaves produce a sticky, poisonous "milk."
3. I am the only food source for the larvae of monarch butterflies.

**MILKWEED**

*Asclepias speciosa*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

This evergreen plant is named after Carolus Linnaeus, the father of modern **taxonomy**. He loved its small, pink flowers that spring up in pairs from stems that seem to run across the forest floor.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a small, perennial evergreen plant that spreads by sending out runners.
2. My flowers are small, pink cups that come in pairs.
3. My seeds are small, sticky burrs.

**TWIN FLOWER**

*Linna borealis var. americana*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Blue grama grass grows well on ridges and in exposed places. It is an important food for grazing species such as deer, pronghorns and bison. Its seeds are collected by mice and chipmunks.

**CLUES:**

1. I am common on the prairies.
2. I grow in clumps with thin, straight leaves.
3. My seed heads look like tiny, curved combs.

**BLUE GRAMA GRASS**

*Bouteloua gracilis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**

This aquatic plant is common in wetlands in all of Alberta. It has spreading, starchy rootstocks. First Nations people used many parts of the cattail for food.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a common sight around ponds in Alberta.
2. I look a bit like a giant grass, but I am not a grass.
3. I have long, brown, cylindrical flowering and seed stalks.

**JUNEGRASS**

*Koeleria cristata*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Boreal forest, parkland and grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Junegrass forms dense clumps in open meadows and prairies across the south and central parts of the province. Junegrass is a good forage grass for grazing animals, and it grows thicker after being grazed.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a good food for grazing animals.
2. I can easily grow back after I have been bitten by an animal.
3. My range is circumpolar.

**COMMON CATTAIL**

*Typha latifolia*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Boreal forest, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The prickly rose is the floral emblem of Alberta. Its red fruits (rose hips) stay on the shrub in winter and can be an important survival food for some species.

**CLUES:**

1. I am one of the best-known plants in Alberta.
2. I have pink, five-petaled flowers and red berries.
3. My berries are an important winter food for animals.

**PRICKLY ROSE**

*Rosa acicularis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Producer  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Parkland, grassland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
Brown-eyed Susan, like other flowers in this family, has flowers made up of hundreds of tiny florets, each one an individual flower. This brightly coloured perennial is seen along roadsides and meadows.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a perennial flowering plant.
2. My name comes from my yellow petals and brown centres.
3. My flowers are composed of many tiny florets.

**BROWN-EYED SUSAN**  
*Gaillardia aristata*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
Red ants are one of the most abundant and common insects in Alberta forests. Their mounds are often covered with leaves and spruce needles to help shed rain. They eat a wide range of foods, including plant material and other insects.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a very common insect of Alberta forests.
2. I live in large colonies that look like conical piles of dirt.
3. I attack and kill other insects and defend my nest aggressively.

**RED ANTS**  
*Formica spp*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
The spring azure is one of the first butterflies to emerge from the pupa stage in spring.

**CLUES:**

1. I feed on nectar from flowers.
2. I am an invertebrate.
3. My name comes in part from my colour.

**SPRING AZURE**  
*Celastrina ladon*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Sensitive

**HABITAT:**  
Parkland, grassland, foothills, Rocky Mountains and boreal forest (rarely)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
The larvae (caterpillar) of monarch butterfly eat huge amounts of milkweed, growing up to 3,000 times their original size in only two weeks.

**CLUES:**

1. In the earliest stages of my life, I feed only on milkweed.
2. I migrate each winter to Mexico.
3. My striking orange and black colours warn away predators.

**MONARCH**  
*Danaus plexippus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Variable darners are Alberta's largest species of dragonfly. Their aquatic larvae are voracious predators, equipped with fang-like pincers. Darners are opportunists and will eat any flying insects they can capture.

**CLUES:**

1. I eat insects that I catch in the air.
2. My larvae live underwater.
3. I have four transparent wings.

**VARIABLE DARNER**  
*Aeshna interrupta*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 These insects can run around on the surface of ponds and lakes due to their wide distribution of weight and the surface tension of the water. They eat living and dead insects on the surface of the water.

**CLUES:**

1. I live in ponds.
2. I can walk on water.
3. I have wings and I can fly from pond to pond.

**WATER STRIDER**  
*Limnoporus dissortis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Female ticks must obtain fresh blood in order for proper egg development to occur. Winter ticks parasitize only one host animal (moose, elk, deer or other species) throughout their entire one-year life cycle.

**CLUES:**

1. I may be less than a centimetre in diameter, but I (with a little help from my relatives) can kill a 700 kg moose.
2. All of my life stages after I hatch are completed on the same host animal.
3. After feeding, the female of my species will swell to many times her normal size.

**WINTER TICK**

*Dermacentor albipictus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 These nocturnal desert arthropods are found only in the southeastern corner of Alberta, the northern limit of their range. With their eight legs, large pincers and stinger-tipped tail, they resemble tiny lobsters.

**CLUES:**

1. I have eight legs and two pincers.
2. I am found only in the southeastern corner of Alberta.
3. I am a predator who poisons my prey with a stinger.

**NORTHERN SCORPION**

*Paruroctonus boreus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Harvestmen are often referred to as daddy-long-legs. They are not insects or spiders, but a separate type of arthropod. They do not produce silk and are never found in webs. They eat decomposing vegetative and animal matter.

**CLUES:**

1. I look a bit like a spider, but I am not one.
2. I have one main body part and eight legs.
3. I am a predator, but I will also scavenge on dead insects.

**HARVESTMAN, DADDY LONG-LEGS**

*Phalangium opilio*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Aphids are tiny insects that get their food by tapping into the veins in the leaves and stems of plants. They often produce, from their anus, small drops of a sugary liquid called honeydew. Some species of ants will "farm" aphids for this honeydew.

**CLUES:**

1. My relatives and I are sometimes called "plant lice."
2. I feed by sucking the sap from plants.
3. Some ants treat us like cows, herding us, milking us for our honeydew and protecting us from predators.

**ROSE APHID**

*Macrosiphum rosae*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Instead of spinning webs to trap their prey, jumping spiders use their excellent vision and jumping ability to pounce on insects. They are masters in the art of ambush.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a predator, and I eat insects.
2. I am a good jumper.
3. I have eight legs and eight eyes.

**BOREAL JUMPING SPIDER**

*Phidippus borealis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Clickhoppers are grasshoppers. Sitting on the ground or on plants, they are so well camouflaged that they almost become invisible. But when they fly, their brilliant red and black wings can easily be seen.

**CLUES:**

1. I move by jumping and flying.
2. I am well camouflaged.
3. My bright wings are only visible when I fly.

**RED-WINGED CLICKHOPPER**

*Arphia conspersa*





**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, parkland, grasslands (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Pike are sometimes called jackfish. They are known for eating fish, frogs, mice and even ducklings. They will eat almost anything they can swallow.

**CLUES:**

1. I am an aquatic predator.
2. I have a swim bladder.
3. I am known for my voracious appetite.



**NORTHERN PIKE**  
*Esox lucius*

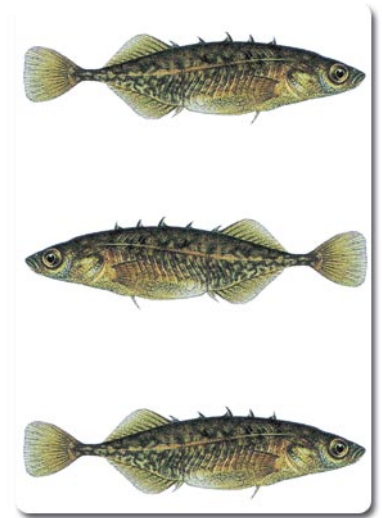
**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 These small minnow-like fish are found in lakes, streams and ponds. As their name suggests, brook stickleback have four to six short spines on their backs, in front of their dorsal fin.

**CLUES:**

1. I usually live in shallow water.
2. I feed on small aquatic animals.
3. I have a row of spines on my back.



**BROOK STICKLEBACK**  
*Culaea inconstans*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Longnose suckers are common in many of Alberta's lakes and rivers. They find their food by filtering small organisms out of the mud.

**CLUES:**

1. I live in deep water.
2. I have no teeth.
3. I feed by "vacuuming" the bottom for invertebrates.



**LONGNOSE SUCKER**  
*Catostomus catostomus*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 These small fish feed on algae and plankton. They are common in lakes and streams throughout Alberta. They are an important food source for larger fish and many aquatic birds such as loons and kingfishers.

**CLUES:**

1. My home is small lakes, ponds and creeks.
2. I grow to only about seven centimetres.
3. I feed on algae and plankton.



**FATHEAD MINNOW**  
*Pimephales promelas*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Sensitive

**HABITAT:**  
All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
Lake trout are found in cold, deep lakes throughout most of Alberta. It takes eight to ten years for lake trout to mature and spawn, which makes them vulnerable to fishing pressure. Humans like eating them.

**CLUES:**

1. I live in deep, cold lakes.
2. I feed on fish, crustaceans and insects.
3. I am a favourite food fish for humans.

### LAKE TROUT

*Salvelinus namaycush*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Parkland, foothills and grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
The tiger salamander stays underground in burrows most of the time. It eats worms, insects and other small animals and prefers moist conditions. It is active at night.

**CLUES:**

1. I prefer to live in moist places and, in my early life, I must live in water.
2. I am carnivorous and I eat worms and insects.
3. I am nocturnal.

### TIGER SALAMANDER

*Ambystoma tigrinum*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Boreal forest, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
The boreal, or western, toad likes to live in rodent burrows. It is nocturnal and eats worms, slugs and insects.

**CLUES:**

1. I undergo metamorphosis during my life.
2. I must spend part of my life in water.
3. I have bumps on my skin, known as warts.

### WESTERN OR BOREAL TOAD

*Bufo boreas*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
Shield, boreal forest, parkland, foothills and grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
The boreal chorus frog is a member of the tree frog family. Its loud, familiar calls are one of the surest signs of spring. You can imitate the sound by dragging your fingernails over the teeth of a comb.

**CLUES:**

1. I am an amphibian.
2. My main food is insects.
3. My brightly coloured tropical relatives live in trees.

### BOREAL CHORUS FROG

*Pseudacris triseriata*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Sensitive

**HABITAT:**  
 Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The painted turtle, Alberta's only native turtle, is found in the far southeast of the province. It survives through the winter by burrowing into the mud on the bottom of ponds.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a rare animal in Alberta.
2. I am a cold-blooded vertebrate.
3. I have a hard shell.

**PAINTED TURTLE**

*Chrysemys picta*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** May be at risk

**HABITAT:**  
 Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The pygmy short-horned lizard is Alberta's only native lizard. It is very rare, found in the extreme southeast part of the province. It is well-camouflaged by its rough scales. Ants are its favourite food.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a rare, cold-blooded animal.
2. I like to eat insects.
3. I have scaly skin.

**PYGMY SHORT-HORNED LIZARD**

*Phrynosoma douglasii*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Parkland, grassland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Garter snakes are good swimmers and can be found around ponds and streams as well as uplands. They eat anything they can catch, including baby birds, fish, frogs, mice and insects.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a reptile.
2. I am a good swimmer.
3. I eat frogs.

**WANDERING GARTER SNAKE**

*Thamnophis elegans*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** May be at risk

**HABITAT:**  
 Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Rattlesnakes are the only poisonous snakes in Alberta. They are pit vipers and use the rattle on their tails to give a warning before biting.

**CLUES:**

1. I have no limbs.
2. I have a poisonous bite.
3. I have a rattling tail that I use as a warning.

**PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE**

*Crotalus viridis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

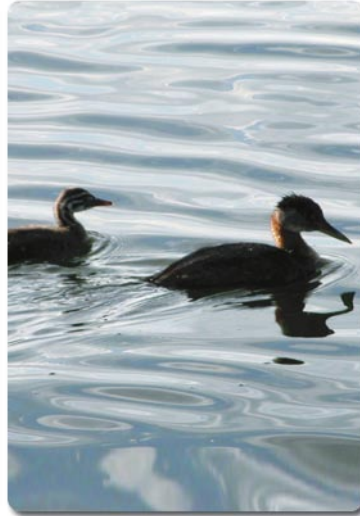
**HABITAT:**  
 All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Red-necked grebes are diving birds that eat small fish, insects and amphibians. They are known for their elaborate and often noisy courtship rituals. Grebes sometimes carry their young chicks on their backs.

**CLUES:**

1. I am an aquatic bird.
2. I have an elaborate courtship ritual.
3. I carry my offspring on my back.

**RED NECKED GREBE**  
*Podiceps grisegana*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, Carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, shield, parkland and grassland (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The white pelican is one of Alberta's largest birds with an amazing wingspan of 2.5 – 3 metres. Pelicans often work cooperatively, bobbing in unison to contain schools of fish, making them easier to catch.

**CLUES:**

1. I am aquatic and mostly white.
2. I feed on fish.
3. I have a very large beak.

**WHITE PELICAN**  
*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

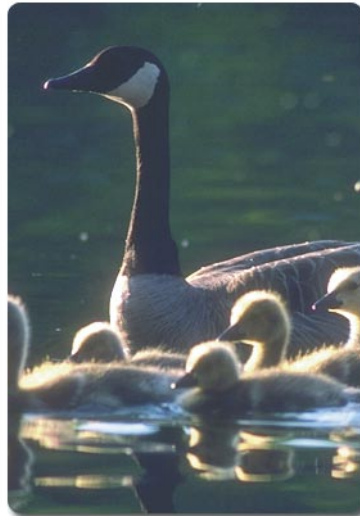
**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The familiar musical honking of the Canada goose can be heard from the skies of much of Alberta every spring and fall. Canada geese are becoming more common in parks and golf courses around urban areas. Canada geese usually mate for life.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a very common aquatic bird.
2. I am migratory and spend the summers in Alberta.
3. I am known to mate for life.

**CANADA GOOSE**  
*Branta canadensis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

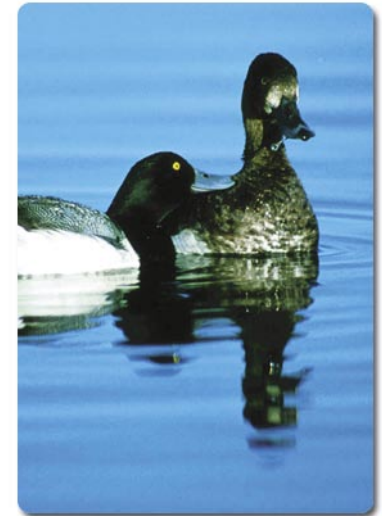
**HABITAT:**  
 All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Lesser scaups are common diving ducks found on many Alberta lakes. Their food consists of insect larvae and small fish which they catch by diving. Several female scaups may rear their chicks as a group.

**CLUES:**

1. I am an aquatic bird.
2. I dive underwater to feed.
3. I sometimes care for my young in groups with other females.

**LESSER SCAUP**  
*Aythya affinis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**

This is Alberta's most common hawk. It is often seen soaring in updrafts over meadows and fields on sunny days. It feeds on rodents, amphibians, birds and reptiles.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a large, feathered predator.
2. I am good at soaring and gliding.
3. I feed on rodents, amphibians, birds and reptiles.

**RED-TAILED HAWK**  
*Buteo jamaicensis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Ospreys are predators of fish and are found around the world. Their keen eyesight helps them spot fish in the water, even from more than one hundred metres up. They plunge feet-first to catch their prey, shaking water from their wings as they lift off again.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a predator that is found around the world.
2. I dive from the air to catch my prey in water.
3. I catch fish with my feet.

**OSPREY**

*Pandion haliaetus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, Herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

White-tailed ptarmigans are year-round residents of the Rockies. Their food consists of the buds, seeds, fruits and flowers of willows and other alpine plants, along with occasional insects. Their thickly-feathered feet help them stay on top of the snow as they walk.

**CLUES:**

1. My feathers are white in the winter and brown and white in the summer.
2. I eat buds, leaves, flowers and sometimes insects.
3. I have feathery feet that allow me to walk on snow.

**WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN**  
*Lagopus leucurus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

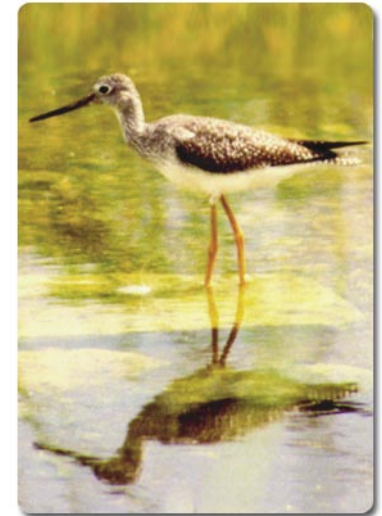
Greater yellowlegs are long-legged wading birds, common around northern ponds and lakeshores. They are the watchdogs in mixed flocks of shorebirds; often, they are the first to call an alarm.

**CLUES:**

1. Although I can fly, I spend a lot of time wading in water.
2. I eat aquatic invertebrates and small fish.
3. When startled, I am quick to call an alarm.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS**

*Tringa melanoleuca*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, mostly carnivorous  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, parkland and grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Ring-billed gulls like to “commute” into cities to eat in the parks and dumps during the day. At night they return to lakes and fields to roost.

**CLUES:**

1. I am related to many ocean birds.
2. I am often seen in cities, eating garbage.
3. I am migratory and spend summers in Alberta.

### RING-BILLED GULL

*Larus delawarensis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

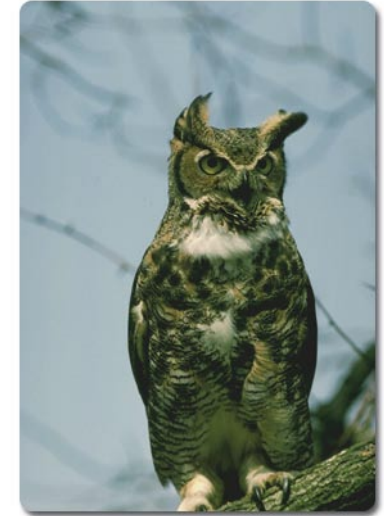
**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The great horned owl is the provincial bird of Alberta and one of our largest and most common owls. Like others of its kind, great horned owls hunt at night, using “stealth technology” – superb night vision, acute hearing and muffled flight feathers to locate and soundlessly swoop down on their prey.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a large predator.
2. My muffled feathers enable me to fly silently.
3. I am nocturnal.

### GREAT HORNED OWL

*Bubo virginianus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** At risk

**HABITAT:**  
 Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Burrowing owls nest underground in ground squirrel burrows. They winter in South America. They are declining in Alberta because of shrinking habitat.

**CLUES:**

1. I live on open grassland.
2. I prey on insects and small rodents.
3. I nest in abandoned ground squirrel burrows, where I lay seven to nine eggs.

### BURROWING OWL

*Athene cucularia*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, mostly herbivorous  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, foothills, parkland and grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The ruby-throated hummingbird is Alberta's smallest bird. It feeds on flower nectar and small insects. It spends the winter around the Gulf of Mexico.

**CLUES:**

1. I can hover in one place and even fly backwards.
2. I eat nectar from flowers.
3. I migrate each winter to the Gulf of Mexico.

### RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

*Archilochus colubris*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The pileated woodpecker is Alberta's largest woodpecker. It uses its chisel-like bill to dig larvae and ants out of trees, as well as to make nesting cavities in trees.

**CLUES:**

1. I use my chisel-like bill to catch insects.
2. My red-crested head is an identifying mark.
3. I am the largest species of my family in Alberta.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER**

*Dryocopus pileatus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

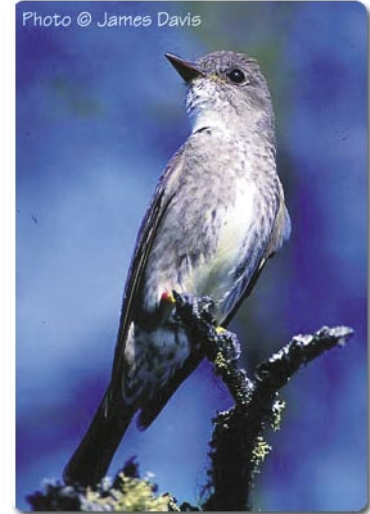
Olive-sided flycatchers live in mature forests. They eat insects that they catch on the wing on short flights from perches high atop tall trees.

**CLUES:**

1. My small size and drably coloured feathers make me hard to see.
2. I eat insects that I watch for from my perch.
3. I am migratory, and I nest in Alberta in the summer.

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER**

*Contopus cooperi*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Clark's nutcrackers are active in the mountains year-round. They store caches of whitebark pine seeds during the summer to last them through the winter. Whitebark pine relies on Clark's nutcrackers to scatter its seeds when cones are opened or caches forgotten.

**CLUES:**

1. I live year-round in the mountains.
2. I rely on whitebark pine seeds for food.
3. My whole annual lifecycle revolves around the gathering and hoarding of scavenged whitebark pine cones and seeds.

**CLARK'S NUTCRACKER**

*Nucifraga columbiana*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Black-billed magpies are members of the crow and jay family, and are year-round residents of Alberta. They are primarily scavengers, often seen picking leftovers from animals killed by predators or vehicles.

**CLUES:**

1. I stay in Alberta year-round.
2. I am common all over the province in urban and rural areas.
3. I am an aggressive scavenger.

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE**

*Pica pica*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Tree swallows are acrobatic flyers, catching insects on the wing. They nest in old woodpecker holes, but will readily accept birdhouses.

- CLUES:**
1. I prefer to nest in tree cavities or nest boxes.
  2. The feathers on my back are iridescent.
  3. I catch insects while in flight.



**TREE SWALLOW**  
*Tachycineta bicolor*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Red-winged blackbirds can be found around marshes and wetlands throughout the province. Their nests are woven between dead cattail stalks from the previous growing season. The males are highly territorial and flash their red wing bands to warn other birds away.

- CLUES:**
1. I am usually seen perching on cattails near a pond.
  2. I nest near the water.
  3. I use my red wing bands to warn away other males.



**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD**  
*Agelaius phoeniceus*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Tennessee warblers are "neotropical migrants," spending the winter in Central America and the summers in Canada and the northern U.S. They feed and sing in the treetops, but nest on the ground.

- CLUES:**
1. I am migratory and nest in Alberta during the summer.
  2. I sing from treetops but nest on the ground.
  3. My name refers to my song: ten-ten-ten-ten-tenna-tenna-tenna-tenna-seeseeseeseese.



**TENNESSEE WARBLER**  
*Vermivora peregrina*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 American robins are a member of the thrush family, known for their lovely songs. Robins thrive in towns and cities, finding their favourite food (worms, insects and fruit) in lawns and gardens. They are one of the first birds to return in spring.

- CLUES:**
1. I am commonly seen around towns and cities.
  2. I feed on insects, worms and berries.
  3. My arrival is a sign of spring.



**AMERICAN ROBIN**  
*Turdus migratorius*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** At risk

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The whooping crane is Alberta's most endangered bird. In the 1940s the population dropped to 15 birds. They nest in only one spot in Wood Buffalo National Park and winter in Texas. The population is slowly increasing.

**CLUES:**

1. I am one of Alberta's rarest species.
2. I have long skinny legs, perfect for wading in water.
3. I nest in Wood Buffalo National Park and winter in Texas.

**WHOOPING CRANE**  
*Grus americana*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** At risk

**HABITAT:**  
 Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The piping plover is a wading bird once common on the edges of prairie sloughs and lakes. This species is endangered because of environmental degradation due to wetlands drainage and disturbance by humans and cattle.

**CLUES:**

1. I am migratory and nest in Alberta.
2. I live on the shores and beaches of lakes.
3. I am endangered, partially because of loss of habitat.

**PIPING PLOVER**  
*Charadrius melodus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Shrews are Alberta's tiniest carnivores. They are short-lived creatures with voracious appetites. The masked shrew eats three times its weight in insects each day.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a small predator.
2. I can eat three times my weight in insects each day.
3. I am the smallest mammal in Alberta.

**MASKED SHREW**  
*Sorex cinereus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Little brown bats are Alberta's most common bats. They are found almost everywhere in the province, often in urban areas. They are especially fond of moths, which they detect in the dark by sending out high-pitched chirps and listening for echoes.

**CLUES:**

1. Although I have fur, I can fly.
2. My main food is insects.
3. I am nocturnal, and I find my way in the dark using echolocation.

**LITTLE BROWN BAT**  
*Myotis lucifugus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Snowshoe hares are common in all the forested regions of Alberta. The snowshoe hare's name comes from its large, furry back feet, which carry it over soft snow in winter.

**CLUES:**

1. My fur is brown in summer and white in winter.
2. I have long ears, large eyes and long hind legs.
3. My furry feet let me move easily over the snow.

### SNOWSHOE HARE

*Lepus americanus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Flying squirrels are nocturnal, so are rarely seen by people. They do not really fly but can glide up to 40 metres. Their favourite food is mushrooms, which they gather and store in the branches of trees.

**CLUES:**

1. I live in forests, but I am rarely seen because I am nocturnal.
2. I can glide from tree to tree.
3. My favourite food is mushrooms.

### NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL

*Glaucomys sabrinus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The cottontail, Alberta's smallest member of the rabbit family, is found in the grasslands of southeastern Alberta.

**CLUES:**

1. I live on shortgrass prairie, where I feed mostly on the grass.
2. I am common in North America but not in Alberta, where I am at the edge of my habitat.
3. I am named for my small, furry tail and for a famous botanist, Thomas Nuttall.

### NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL

*Sylvilagus nuttallii*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The least chipmunk is the smallest member of the squirrel family. It has cheek pouches, which it uses to gather and carry food.

**CLUES:**

1. I can be identified by the black and white stripes on my brown fur.
2. I hibernate through the winter.
3. I can carry food in pouches in my cheeks.

### LEAST CHIPMUNK

*Eutamias minimus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The red squirrel is very common in urban areas as well as in forests. Its main food is conifer seeds. You will often find a squirrel's midden, or pile of empty cones, beneath spruce trees.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a very common mammal in urban areas.
2. I can be found in and around coniferous trees.
3. I make large middens, or piles of empty cones, beneath spruce trees.

**RED SQUIRREL**

*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, foothills, parkland, shield

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The woodchuck, also called groundhog, is actually a type of squirrel, and is closely related to the hoary marmot. Woodchucks live alone in burrows located in or near forests. They hibernate four to six months of each year.

**CLUES:**

1. My hibernation is famous, as people try to predict when spring will come by watching to see if I can see my shadow on February 2 each year.
2. I live in burrows in the earth, and I am solitary.
3. I live in most forested parts of Alberta, but not in the Rocky Mountains.

**WOODCHUCK**

*Marmota monax*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Hoary marmots live in colonies in high alpine meadows. They hibernate up to eight months each year. They have a shrill call, or whistle, from which their nickname, whistler, comes.

**CLUES:**

1. I live only in the mountain region of Alberta, where I am found at high elevations.
2. I spend more months hibernating than awake.
3. I find plenty of food in the short summer of an alpine meadow to fatten me up for my long hibernation.

**HOARY MARMOT**

*Marmota caligata*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Parkland and grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Richardson's ground squirrels are often mistakenly called gophers. They live in large colonies in underground burrows. Active only during the spring and summer, they are important food for predators.

**CLUES:**

1. I live in colonies in grassland and open areas of parkland.
2. I am preyed upon by hawks, weasels, foxes, coyotes and other predators.
3. I dig burrows to live in and to hibernate in during winter.

**RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL**

*Spermophilus richardsonii*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Parkland and grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Pocket gophers live underground and eat roots and tubers. They create large mounds of soil at the entrances to their burrows. They are active year-round, digging tunnels to get to their main food, plant roots.

**CLUES:**

1. My feet are well developed for digging because I live underground.
2. I am rarely seen, as I seldom come to the surface, but I do leave mounds of earth behind me.
3. I do not hibernate, but I continue to be active underground through the winter.

**NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER**  
*Thomomys talpoides*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The beaver is a large aquatic rodent. Beavers make dams and lodges from sticks and mud. They store large piles of green twigs and branches under water near their lodges for their winter food supply.

**CLUES:**

1. I have a flat, paddle-like tail and webbed feet, both important for my aquatic lifestyle.
2. I cut down trees with my teeth.
3. My favourite food is tree bark.

**BEAVER**  
*Castor canadensis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Deer mice live in a wide range of habitats and breed rapidly. They are important food for owls, weasels and other predators. They are often abundant in barns, sheds and granaries.

**CLUES:**

1. I am able to live in many ecological niches, including human dwellings, and so I am abundant.
2. I stay active all winter under the snow.
3. I am preyed on by most Alberta predators.

**DEER MOUSE**  
*Peromyscus maniculatus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions (aquatic)

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 This rodent is aquatic, but much smaller than the beaver, and has a round, rather than flattened, tail. It builds lodges up to one metre above the water.

**CLUES:**

1. I am aquatic, and I build a lodge of plant stems and mud in shallow water.
2. I am frequently trapped for my fur.
3. I am an aquatic rodent that eats plants in the water and on shore.

**MUSKRAT**  
*Ondatra zibethicus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Grassland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 These small mice have an unusually long tail, and kangaroo-like hind feet. They are active only in summer, and they like grassy meadows. Jumping mice can leap up to two metres.

**CLUES:**

1. I have very long hind legs, short front legs and a very long tail.
2. I can leap long distances.
3. I live in grassy places and hibernate in winter.

**WESTERN JUMPING MOUSE**  
*Zapus princeps*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Porcupines are large, tree-climbing rodents. Their skin is armed with stiff, extremely sharp quills, which protect it from attacks by most predators. In the summer, porcupines feed on green leaves and bark of shrubs and trees.

**CLUES:**

1. I spend a fair amount of time in trees, feeding.
2. I use my sharp, barbed quills to protect myself from predators.
3. Very few animals can hurt me.

**PORCUPINE**  
*Erethizon dorsatum*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Ermine, also called short-tailed weasels, are voracious hunters of mice. They follow their prey down tight burrows in the ground and under the snow. They change from brown to white in the fall, making them almost impossible to spot against snow.

**CLUES:**

1. I have scent glands near my anus.
2. I am mostly brown in summer, but in winter, I am white with a black-tipped tail.
3. I am a small carnivore, preying mostly on rodents but also on some birds.

**ERMINE**  
*Mustela erminea*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Mink are members of the weasel family. They are often found near lakes and streams. Their diet includes frogs, fish, rodents and insects. They are farmed or trapped for their lustrous, dark-brown pelts.

**CLUES:**

1. I have scent glands near my anus.
2. I often hunt near waterways.
3. My dark-brown fur stays the same colour year-round.

**MINK**  
*Mustela vison*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The skunk is well-known for protecting itself by spraying its enemies with a foul-smelling fluid from its anal gland. The great horned owl is one of its few predators. Skunks eat a wide range of foods, including rodents, insects and plants.

- CLUES:**
1. I have scent glands near my anus.
  2. Unlike other species in my family, I can spray my musk at enemies.
  3. I am omnivorous and I eat many invertebrates.

**STRIPED SKUNK**  
*Mephitis mephitis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Although quite common, red foxes are nocturnal and not often seen. They prefer rodents for food, but will also eat insects, fruits and seeds. They range up to eight kilometres in one evening.

- CLUES:**
1. I am an omnivore. I eat small rodents, insects and even vegetative matter.
  2. In summer, my mate and I make a den in which to raise our babies.
  3. When I am not raising young, I am solitary.

**RED FOX**  
*Vulpes vulpes*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Coyotes are highly adaptable and social animals. They are common in wilderness and farming areas, and have made their homes in the middle of some cities. Almost anywhere in Alberta, coyotes can be heard howling in the evening.

- CLUES:**
1. I am found in all parts of Alberta, even in cities.
  2. I am able to hunt large mammals in groups but, more often, I hunt rodents.
  3. I communicate with my family members by calling to them at night.

**COYOTE**  
*Canis latrans*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**  
 Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 The grey wolf is the largest member of the dog family. They once roamed all over North America, but are now found in the mountains and northern forests. The grey wolf lives and hunts in complex social groupings. Their main food is deer and moose.

- CLUES:**
1. I am one of the largest predators in Alberta and the largest in the dog family.
  2. I usually live and hunt in packs.
  3. In winter, I prey on deer and moose, but in summer I will eat rodents, birds and some plants.

**GREY WOLF**  
*Canis lupus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Sensitive

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, shield, parkland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Lynx are solitary predators of the forest. They eat mainly snowshoe hare and, occasionally, birds. Lynx are extremely well adapted to winter, with thickly-furred feet for walking on deep snow.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a solitary hunter, and I travel through a large hunting range.
2. My main food is snowshoe hare, and my population fluctuates in response to the population of the hare.
3. I can be found in the forested parts of Alberta.

**CANADA LYNX**

*Lynx canadensis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Sensitive

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, parkland, grassland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The mountain lion, or cougar, has been called the ghost of the wilderness. It lives in remote areas and requires a very large hunting range. Its favourite food is fresh deer meat.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a large predator, the largest of my family in Alberta.
2. I am a solitary hunter of the forests.
3. I enjoy venison (deer meat).

**MOUNTAIN LION**

*Felis concolor*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Black bears are well known for eating large quantities of berries in fall. They use their large paws to rake berries off bushes into their mouths, leaves and all. They also sometimes hunt and kill other animals for food.

**CLUES:**

1. I am a large, strong omnivore, known for eating both plants and animals.
2. I hibernate through the winter.
3. I spend my time on the ground, but I can climb trees, and I swim well.

**BLACK BEAR**

*Ursus americanus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, omnivore  
**STATUS:** May be at risk

**HABITAT:**

Mountains and foothills

**SPECIES FACTS:**

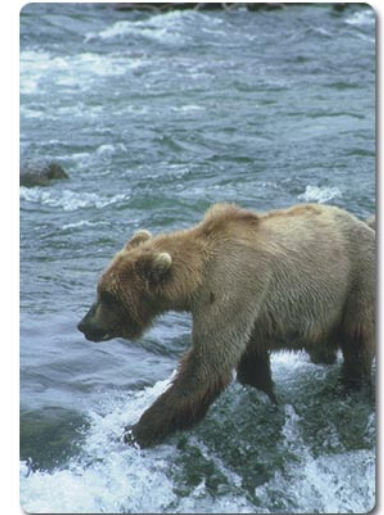
Grizzlies can be distinguished from black bears by their noticeable shoulder hump and by the length of the claws on their front feet. Grizzlies once ranged all over Alberta, but human settlement and farming have driven them into more remote areas in the mountains and foothills.

**CLUES:**

1. I am the largest carnivore in Alberta, but my diet is omnivorous.
2. I hibernate in winter, but only for a short time – December until February or March.
3. I do a lot of my foraging for food high on the mountains.

**GRIZZLY BEAR**

*Ursus arctos*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, parkland, grassland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Mule deer get their name because of their large, mule-like ears. The antlers, found only on the males, have Y-shaped forks. Although mule deer usually are solitary, they form herds during mating season and winter.

**CLUES:**

1. My preferred habitat is forest edges, where I browse on trees and shrubs.
2. During the fall mating season the males tend to fight.
3. I am solitary, but I will join a herd during the winter season.

**MULE DEER**

*Odocoileus hemionus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Rocky Mountains and small local areas of parkland and grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

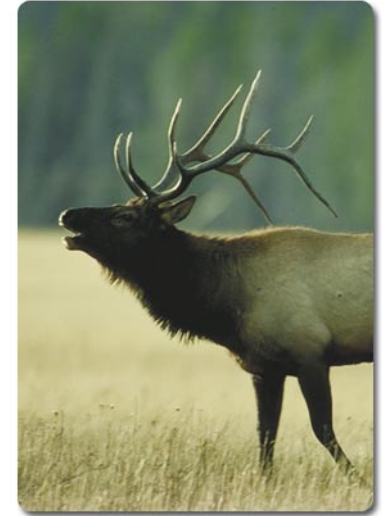
Wapiti, also called elk, are Canada's second-largest deer. Wapiti were once common throughout most of the forests and prairies of western North America, but are now mostly confined to the Rocky Mountains and foothills. *Wapiti* is a Shawnee word meaning "white rump."

**CLUES:**

1. I have hoofs, and males of my species have antlers.
2. I feed mostly by grazing.
3. I am often seen by the roads in the mountain parks.

**WAPITI (ELK)**

*Cervus elaphus*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

**HABITAT:**

Boreal forest, parkland, grassland, foothills and Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**

The moose is the largest member of the deer family. Moose is an Algonquin name which means "eater of twigs." Besides twigs and bark, moose are also fond of pond weeds and have been known to dive to the bottom of lakes to get them.

**CLUES:**

1. I like to feed on bark, twigs and aquatic vegetation.
2. I am the largest deer in the world.
3. My long legs help me to wade through water or snow.

**MOOSE**

*Alces alces*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Sensitive

**HABITAT:**

Grassland

**SPECIES FACTS:**

Pronghorns, found only in North America, are not actually related to antelope, but belong to their own family. Their horns are unique in that they are shed and regrown every year, much like deer. Pronghorns can run at speeds of up to 55 km/hr.

**CLUES:**

1. Both males and females of my species have horns.
2. I usually live in herds, with the males separate from the females and young.
3. I run very fast and am a grazer of the grasslands.

**PRONGHORN**

*Antilocapra americana*





**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, herbivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

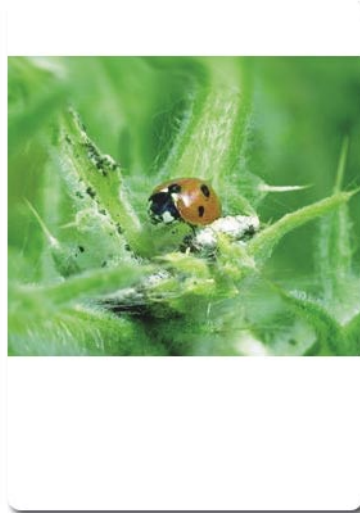
**HABITAT:**  
 Rocky Mountains

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 Bighorn sheep are very good climbers and can be seen on steep slopes in the Rocky Mountains. The males, or rams, fight each other for the privilege of mating with the females (ewes) by crashing their heads together as hard as they can. The toughest ram wins and chases his rivals away.

**CLUES:**

1. Both males and females of my species have horns, but the horns of the males are bigger.
2. I tend to spend summers at higher elevations, and winters at lower elevations.
3. I have hooves that have a spongy centre, helping me to get a firm grip on rock.

**TWO-SPOTTED LADYBUG**  
*Adalia bipunctata*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:**      **STATUS:**

**HABITAT:**

**SPECIES FACTS:**

**CLUES:**

**NAME**  
*Scientific name*

**TYPE OF ORGANISM:** Consumer, carnivore  
**STATUS:** Not endangered

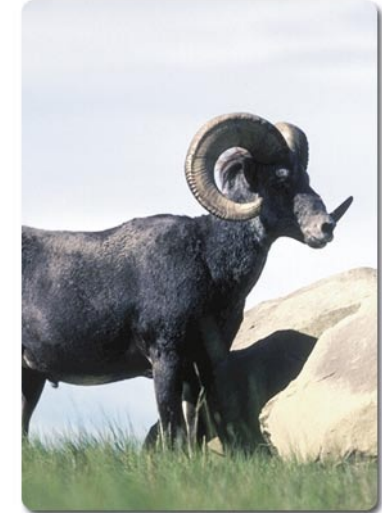
**HABITAT:**  
 All regions

**SPECIES FACTS:**  
 This native ladybug can have four spots instead of two and is one of 5,000 species of ladybugs in the world. Both the larvae and adults are voracious predators of aphids.

**CLUES:**

1. I am an invertebrate.
2. I like to eat aphids.
3. Although my name says I am a bug, I am actually a beetle.

**BIGHORN SHEEP**  
*Ovis canadensis*



**TYPE OF ORGANISM:**      **STATUS:**

**HABITAT:**

**SPECIES FACTS:**

**CLUES:**

**NAME**  
*Scientific name*