



OKLAHOMA'S BATS

Oklahoma has 23 bat species, including the little brown bat (skull) and the American perimyotis (photo).

Bats are the only mammals capable of flight.

Oklahoma's bats are insectivores and feed on invertebrates.

During their active season, some species may forage for insects over Oklahoma's wetlands.

During winter, Oklahoma's bats must either hibernate or migrate.



AMERICAN BEAVER

The beaver is Oklahoma's largest rodent.

Beavers can use their large teeth to fell trees. Like other rodents, these teeth continue to grow throughout the animal's life but are worn down with use.

Beavers feed on the inner bark of trees and on twigs, as well as other vegetation. This species has several adaptations for an aquatic life: a paddle-like tail; large, webbed hind feet; the nostrils and ears can be sealed while underwater; and a nictating membrane covers the eyes while underwater.

In Oklahoma, beavers typically build burrows in the banks of streams and rivers.



COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE

The common snapping turtle can be found statewide.

These turtles are omnivores and eat a wide variety of foods including carrion, plants, aquatic invertebrates, fish, reptiles and even birds and mammals.

Common snapping turtles are most often mistaken as alligator snapping turtles. Common snapping turtles are smaller in size, have saw-tooth projections on the tail (alligator snapping turtles have a smooth tail) and a less-pronounced hooked beak.

The gender of these turtles (and many others) is often determined by the temperature of the nest. Warmer nests tend to produce more females.



STEPHEN OFSTHUN

GREAT BLUE HERON

The great blue heron is the largest heron in the U.S. and one of the most widespread wading birds in the country. In Oklahoma, it can be found statewide.

These large birds fold their neck in an s-shape and keep the long legs extended while in flight.

Great blue herons feed primarily on fish, but will also eat amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, mammals, and other birds.

They often wade into water and wait for their prey.

This bird typically builds nests in trees and may form large nesting colonies. 2-6 pale blue eggs are laid in the stick nest and are incubated for nearly one month.

Chicks remain in the nest for another 2-3 months.