



FIELD GUIDE TO 100 ACRE WOOD PRESERVE

BIRDS

BLUE JAY (*CYANOCITTA CRISTATA*)

Habitat

- Mostly near oak trees and forest edges
- Urban and suburban areas

Food

- Glean insects and take nuts and seeds in trees
- Dead or injured small vertebrates

Behavior

- Complex social systems and tight family bonds
- Communicate vocally and through body language
- High crest, high aggression



CAROLINA WREN (*THRYOTHORUS LUDOVICIANUS*)

Habitat

- Frequently vegetated habitats
- Gravitate toward shrubby, wooded residential areas

Food

- Insects and spiders, sometimes plant matter

Behavior

- Alone or in pairs and groups
- Use curved bills to turn over decaying vegetation and shake apart large bugs
- Stay on ground mostly





EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*SIALIA SIALIS*)

Habitat

- Open country around trees with little understory
- Common along pastures, fields, parks

Food

- Insects (caterpillars, beetles crickets, grasshoppers...) and fruit (sumac, blueberries, black cherry...)
- Rarely salamanders, shrews, snakes, lizards

Behavior

- Perch on wires and fence posts



GREAT BLUE HERON (*ARDEA HERODIAS*)

Habitat

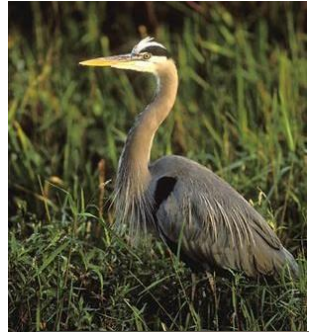
- Freshwater and saltwater habitats, sometimes grasslands and agricultural fields

Food

- Nearly anything within striking distance (fish, reptiles, insects, birds)

Behavior

- Wades slowly or stands still watching for prey
- In flight neck folds in "S" shape
- Elaborate courtship rituals



RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (*BUTEO LINEATUS*)

Habitat

- Stands with open subcanopies, suburban areas

Food

- Small mammals
- Reptiles and amphibians
- Crayfish

Behavior

- Soar in a circular pattern
- Perch and waits for prey to pass below





TURKEY VULTURE (*CATHARTES AURA*)

Habitat

- Open areas, along roadsides and at landfills
- Roost on high secluded spots

Food

- Carrion (mostly mammals but sometimes reptiles and fish)
- Preferably dead animals, never attack living prey

Behavior

- Slow, teetering flight style
- On ground move with ungainly hops
- Feed one at a time





SPIDERS & INSECTS

SPIDERS

JUMPING SPIDER (*PHIDIPPUS SP.*)

Habitat

- Tropical and temperate forests, scrub lands, deserts

Food

- Insects
- Nectar

Behavior

- Diurnal (daytime) hunter
- Can leap several times longer than its body width onto its prey
- Uses venom to immobilize prey

Size

- 2.0-25.0 mm



WOLF SPIDER (*RABIDOSA RABIDA*)

Habitat

- Open grasslands, suburban lawns, deciduous forests, sandy soil and wet terrain

Food

- Mainly insects

Behavior

- Live on ground and hunt for prey at night
- Do not spin webs

Size

- 2.2 - 35.0 mm



DRAGONFLIES

BLUE DASHER (*PACHYDIPLAX LONGIPENNIS*)

Habitat

- Ponds, lakes, marshes, bogs, still water
- Larvae highly tolerant of poor water wetlands

Food

- Tiny flying insects

Size

- 25-43 mm





CALICO PENNANT (*CELITHEMIS ELISA*)

Habitat

- Ponds, lakes with marshy borders

Food

- Forage in fields

Size

- 3.0 cm



EASTERN PONDHAWK (*ERYTHEMIS SIMPLICICOLLIS*)

Habitat

- Primarily ponds

Food

- Small flying insects

Size

- 36-48 mm



BUTTERFLIES

LITTLE WOOD SATYR (*MEGISTO CYMELA*)

Habitat

- Grassy woods and openings

Food

- Sap, aphid honeydew, and flower nectar

Wing Span

- 1 ½ - 1 7/8 in





BUCKEYE (*JUNONIA COENIA*)

Habitat

- Open, sunny areas with low vegetation

Food

- Nectar from aster, chickory, gumweed, knapweed

Wing Span

- 1 5/8 – 2 3/4 in



RED ADMIRAL (*VANESSA ATALANTA*)

Habitat

- Moist woods, yards, parks, marshes

Food

- Sap flows on trees, fermenting fruit, and bird droppings

Wing Span

- 1 3/4 - 3 in



BEETLES

GROUND BEETLE (*SCARITES SUBERRANEUS*)

Habitat

- Temperate forests

Food

- Decaying tree matter

Size

- 35 - 75 mm





BEES

BUMBLEBEE (*BOMBUS AMERICANUS*)

Habitat

- North-facing banks during winter hibernation
- Abandoned animal nests and/or holes

Food

- Nectar and pollen
- Honey

Size

10 mm – 23 mm



EUROPEAN HONEY BEE (*APIS MELIFERA*)

Habitat

- Natural hives built on tree branches and manmade hives

Food

- Nectar and pollen
- Honey

Size

- 10 mm – 20 mm
- Females are larger





AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

AMPHIBIANS

NORTHERN CRICKET FROG (*ACRIS CREPITANS*)

Habitat

- Shallow ponds with vegetation and full sun or shallow gravel-lined creeks

Behavior

- Diurnal and active all year
- Will jump quickly away when threatened



SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG (*RANA UTRICULARIA*)

Habitat

- Shallow, freshwater habitats

Behavior

- Nocturnal
- Avoids predators by entering the water and swimming away



REPTILES

GREEN ANOLE (*ANOLIS CAROLINENSIS*)

Habitat

- Arboreal, but ubiquitous

Behavior

- Both males and females have bright red dewlaps for territorial and mating displays
- Can change color when threatened or stressed





**SOUTHERN COPPERHEAD (*AGKISTRODON
CONTORTIX CONTORTIX*)**

Habitat

- Woodland habitats

Behavior

- Will bite and inject its venom when threatened

WARNING

This snake is venomous. Avoid if at all possible.



PLANTS

TREES

WATER HICKORY (*CARYA AQUATICA*)

Habitat

- Grows in poorly drained, tight-textured soils that are flooded in winter and dry in summer

Characteristics

- Develops a taproot in the seedling stage
- Can tolerate many different soil moisture levels

Uses

- Cleansing water drainage in low floodplains



WATER OAK (*QUERCUS NIGRA*)

Habitat

- Grows in heavy, compacted soils in wet, swampy areas

Characteristics

- Can tolerate poorly and well drained soils

Uses

- Is used to restore bottomland hardwood forests
- Provides excellent shade coverage



LOBLOLLY PINE (*PINUS TAEDA*)

Habitat

- Grows in slightly acidic soils (pH: 4.5-7.0)
- Very common in North America

Characteristics

- Grows in a straight column

Uses

- Major timber crop
- Cheap and easy species often used in reclamation





SHRUBS

AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY (*CALLICARPA AMERICANA*)

Habitat

- Grows under canopy
- Found in bottomlands and on swamp edges

Characteristics

- Bright purple berries that remain on bush until winter
- The green foliage turns yellow in autumn

Uses

- The purple berries are edible by wildlife and humans



EASTERN BACCHARIS (*BACCHARIS HALIMIFOLIA*)

Habitat

- Found in wetlands
- Salt-tolerant

Characteristics

- Vibrant white blossoms
- Is a dioecious species (has male and female plants)

Uses

- The white blossoms are good sources of nectar for Bees and butterflies, namely Monarchs



COMMON BUTTONBUSH (*CEPHALANTHUS OCCIDENTALIS*)

Habitat

- Found in wetlands and floodplains

Characteristics

- Spherical blossoms
- Shiny leaves

Uses

- Erosion control
- Popular ornamental choice





HERBACEOUS VEGETATION

DOG FENNEL (*EUPATORIUM CAPILLIFOLIUM*)

Habitat

- Found in disturbed areas, especially alongside highways

Characteristics

- Tall, leafy green stalks

Uses

- Important food of Florida's scarlet-bodied wasp moth



LATE-FLOWERING BONESET (*EUPATORIUM SERATINUM*)

Habitat

- Grows in loamy soils

Characteristics

- Small, white blossoms grown in clusters

Uses

- Attracts butterflies
- Provides nectar for pollinators





INFORMATION AND/OR IMAGES GATHERED FROM:

- Texas A&M Forest Service: <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/>
Texas eBird: <http://ebird.org/content/tx/>
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center-
University of Texas at Austin: <http://www.wildflower.org/>
United States Department of
Agriculture Plants Database: <http://www.plants.usda.gov/>