

WILDLIFE

of the Forest Preserve



Barred owl

This large, dark-eyed, gray-brown woodland owl is barred across the chest and streaked lengthwise on the belly. It grows up to 24 inches long, with a wingspan of 44 inches. Barred owls feed mainly on mammals and birds. Nests are found in cavities or in an old hawk, squirrel or crow nest in densely forested areas.



Moose

The largest member of the deer family, an adult male (bull) moose is six feet tall at the shoulder and can weigh as much as 600 pounds. Females (cows) are smaller. Each spring, bulls grow flat, shovel-like antlers as wide as five feet! They are shed in winter. Moose eat leaves and aquatic plants in spring and summer, and mostly twigs in fall and winter. Though uncommon in the state, moose are found in growing numbers in the Adirondacks.



Wood turtle

The wood turtle gets its name from living in a wooded habitat and because its shell looks like weathered tree rings. They are found in or along clean, fast flowing trout streams. In summer they look for food in the woodlands bordering the streams. Like other turtles, females move to open areas to lay their eggs. Wood turtles eat berries, mushrooms, small fish, slugs, worms and tadpoles.

Red-backed salamander



New York's most abundant salamander, the red-backed salamander is also perhaps the state's most numerous forest vertebrate. A thin salamander of 2 to 4 inches, it commonly has a brick-red stripe along the back. However, in many areas, individuals with a slate gray back are almost as common. When attacked, the red-back's tail can easily break off and keep wiggling to distract predators. The tail grows



Blue jay

A common year-round resident, the noisy blue jay is often seen at backyard bird feeders. Weighing about 3 ounces, it grows to 12 inches with a wingspan of 16 inches. Blue jays feed on a variety of small plant and animal matter. It can fly up to 20 miles per hour, and builds bulky nests in low, large trees or bushes.

Red eft



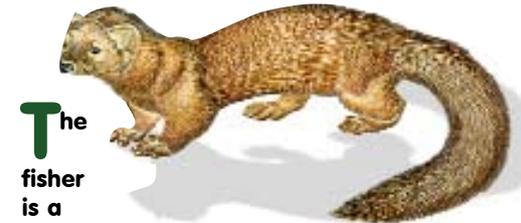
The red eft is the "teenage stage" of the red-spotted newt. For the first part of its life, it lives in water. It then spends two to five years in woodlands before returning to a pond as a newt to breed. The red eft is 1 1/2 to 3 inches long and adult newt is 3 1/2 to 5 inches long. The red eft is brilliant orange, with dry skin and a line of red dots on each side of its body. Its bright coloring serves as a warning that this animal has toxic skin.

Broad winged hawk

This small, stout woodland hawk is about the size of a crow. They grow up to 17 inches long, with a wingspan up to 36 inches. During fall migrations, thousands of broad-winged hawks can be seen at specific locations called hawk lookouts. They prey on insects, frogs, snakes, salamanders, toads, small mammals and a few birds. They can be found statewide in forested areas, but you'll rarely see them in winter.



Fisher



The fisher is a large weasel that weighs from 7 to 12 pounds and grows up to 3 1/2 feet long. Fast moving, this dark-furred animal is sometimes misidentified as a black panther or mountain lion. Fishers live in forested lands and eat birds, squirrels, snowshoe hare and porcupines, as well as carrion.