



NORMANDY FARMS

family camping resort

FOLLOW OUR 2 MILE NATURE TRAIL
COMPLETE WITH INTERPRETIVE SIGNS.

1. Blue Jay
2. American Goldfinch
3. Chipmunk
4. Eastern Gray Squirrel
5. Common Raccoon
6. Striped Skunk
7. Wild Turkey
8. Poison Ivy/Oak/Sumac
9. White Tailed Deer
10. Red Fox
11. Fish Characteristics
12. Large Mouth Bass
13. Trout
14. Painted Turtle
15. Green Frog
16. Snapping Turtle
17. Great Blue Heron
18. Bluegill
19. Canadian Goose
20. Mallard
21. Trees



1. Blue Jay

- Uses loud warning calls to warn of predators.
- Diet consists mostly of vegetables, acorns, fruits, and nuts; however, it also eats many types of insects, as well as other birds eggs.
- Noted for keeping the moth population down. It does this by destroying the cocoon of the Tent Caterpillar and taking the pupae, or non feeding stage of the caterpillar, that is within the cocoon and feeding it to it's young, thus eliminating a vast amount of moths that are due to hatch in the following spring.
- It builds a bulky nest, about 7 inches in diameter, of small twigs and a variety of other materials such as lichens, moss, grass, and paper. The inner cup of the nest, about 4 inches in diameter, is shaped with mud and lined with fine rootlets and feathers. Before the final nest is made, the birds build several incomplete nests as part of their courtship ritual. The female then picks out the best nest and mates with that male.
- Some Blue Jays often bury seeds and acorns, which creates new trees.
- When Blue Jays shed their feathers in the late summer, they can be seen picking up ants and shoving them where new feathers are being grown. It is believed that ant secretions give the birds temporary relief from the irritation that growing new feather's causes.
- While the female Blue Jay is incubating, producing eggs, the male Blue Jay feeds her as if she were a baby bird.
- A Blue Jay's wings are not actually Blue, they reflect light in such a way, that is seen as blue to the Human eye.
- After only 21 days of being born, the Blue Jay chicks are already capable of flying and gathering their own food.

2. American Goldfinch

One of the most brightly colored birds in New England, the American Goldfinch can be commonly seen around the campground near bird feeders. Due to it's conical shaped beak, you can tell that this bird's primary source of food is seeds. Because it relies mainly on seeds for food, the Goldfinch doesn't start nesting in this area until midsummer or late summer when seeds are readily available. Because of their late nesting season, the American Goldfinch will only raise one brood, or chic, per season. This is so they can spend all their energy on that one brood as opposed to trying to raise and feed several of them at once.

3. Chipmunk

The Eastern Chipmunk is one of the most common animals you will see around the campground during the summer months. They are very bold in their search for food, and unless trying to find a mate, that is most likely what you will see a chipmunk doing, gathering food for its long winter hibernation. Although the chipmunk does hibernate in the winter, it will often waken every two weeks to eat some of the nuts that it has stored up in its burrow, and if it's a mild winter day, the chipmunk may be seen roaming around the surface looking for more food. The chipmunks diet mainly consists of acorns and hickory nuts; however, in addition to nuts, it will also eat seeds and other types of vegetation as well as some invertebrates such as slugs and snails.

4. Eastern Gray Squirrel

- Can swim up to 2 miles in calm water.
- Can see very well in dim light and have a great sense of smell and hearing.

5. Common Raccoon

- Nocturnal and solitary animal, unless its breeding or caring for young.
- The raccoon can climb down a tree face down, due to it's ability to rotate its hind feet 180 degrees.

- The raccoon does not hibernate during the winter, but during cold spells it has been known to sleep for over a month at a time.
- The Common Raccoon is an omnivore.
- Although active during the winter months, it does not need to feed because it can store up to 1/3 of it's body weight as fat. This allows it to survive the entire Winter without having to eat.
- Has nimble fingers and can easily turn doorknobs and open refrigerators.
- If water is conveniently close, this animal sometimes appears to wash its food, a trait reflected in its species name, lotor, which means "washer."
- Before the baby raccoons are able to walk, the mother carries them about by the nape of the neck, as a cat carries kittens.
- Their predators include foxes, owls, bobcats, and coyotes, but automobiles, disease, and accidents probably cause more deaths than do these animals.

6. Striped Skunk

- They are nocturnal animals, meaning they are active at night. They are omnivores and will gorge themselves in the Fall season to prepare for Winter.
- The only serious predator of the skunk is the Great Horned Owl.
- Its anal glands hold about a tablespoon of a fetid, oily, yellowish musk, enough for five or six jets of spray.
- Can spray its musk up to 15 feet, the mist can reach three times that distance and the odor will carry for over a mile.
- If sprayed in the eye, the musk will cause fleeting loss of vision as well as severe pain.

7. Wild Turkey

Sightings of the Wild Turkey have recently become a common occurrence on the Normandy Farms acreage. American Indians used to refrain from eating the wild turkey because they thought it was a stupid and cowardly bird, and they didn't want to acquire those traits by eating them.

- A flying Turkey can reach speeds of roughly 50mph.
- During the spring months the male turkey spreads out its feathers, struts and gobbles in an attempt to attract many female turkeys into its harem.
- Turkeys stay together in groups during the Fall and bulk up their body weight for the winter months ahead.
- Male turkeys are polygamous, meaning they have more than one mate at a time.
- Wild Turkeys live for an average of 5-12 years.
- A female turkey will lay 8-10 buff colored eggs with brown spots that she defends fiercely.

8. Poison Oak, Ivy, & Sumac

- Rubbing the rashes won't spread poison ivy to other parts of your body (or to another person). You spread the rash only if urushiol oil (the sticky, resin like substance that causes the rash) has been left on your hands.
- Poison sumac has 7 to 13 leaves on a branch, although poison ivy and oak have 3 leaves per cluster.
- Urushiol oil stays active on any surface, including dead plants, for up to 5 years.

9. White Tailed Deer

- The winter coat of the northern White-tailed Deer has hollow hair shafts, which fill with air, making the coat so buoyant that it would be difficult for the animal to sink should it become exhausted while swimming.
- Also a graceful runner, with top speeds to 36 mph and can also make vertical leaps of 8 1/2 feet and horizontal leaps of 30 feet.
- The four-part stomach allows the White-tailed Deer to feed on

items that most other mammals cannot eat. It can obtain nutrients directly from the food.

- The White-tailed Deer can eat between 5-9lbs of food per day.
- White-tailed Deer raise their tails when danger is near. This warns other deer in the area of nearby danger, and also poses as a guide to fawns when following their parents.

10. Red Fox

- Mostly nocturnal, meaning they come out at night.
- Is an omnivore, meaning it will eat plants and animals.
- They are more adept at hearing high pitched sounds. This allows them to listen for rodents digging in the ground.
- The mating season of the Red Fox begins at the beginning of the year in late January and early February. The loud barking of the male fox attracts the female to him, and they find a den together to raise their family. After the newly born cubs are a week old, they begin to play outside of the den. The parents feed the cubs regurgitated, or chewed up, food until they reach about 3 months old. At this time, the parent foxes then bring back live food for the cubs to practice killing their prey. After about seven months from birth, the den is abandoned and the foxes disperse from each other.

11. General Characteristics of Fish

Three Types of Fish:

1. Cartilaginous Fish include the sharks, skates and rays. 2. 2. Jawless Fish are primitive eel-like fish which do not have a true jaw, but a sucker-like mouth and rasping teeth. There are two main types: Lampreys and Hagfish.

3. Bony Fish are often regarded as "true" fish. This group includes most of the fish we are familiar with, such as the Bluegill , Bass, and Trout.

12. Large Mouth Bass

The large mouth is an olive green fish, marked by a series of dark, blotches forming a jagged horizontal stripe along each flank. The large mouth is the largest of the black basses, reaching a maximum recorded overall length of 29.5 inches. The fish lives 16 years on ave.

13. Rainbow Trout

Most commonly recognized by the pink or red stripe running down the length of its body, with a dark olive color on it's back. It also has black dots that cover its entire body as well as its tail fin.

Brook Trout

Brook trout have a brownish to green colored back with worm-like markings on their scales. They have reddish fins with white tips on them. Another defining characteristic is their tail fin is box shaped as opposed to V shaped.

Brown Trout

These are typically olive brown to green in color with red or orange spots on their body surrounded by blue colored halos. A very beautiful fish, highly regarded as one of the top game fish in freshwater lakes and ponds.

14. Painted Turtle (Sun Turtle)

The Painted Turtle, also known as the Sun Turtle, enjoys sun bathing on the grassy mound that protrudes out of the pond. Fossils show that the turtle existed 15 million years ago. The adult female is 4-10 in long and weighs 11-18 oz.; the male is smaller. The turtle's shell is smooth, oval, and flat-bottomed. Its skin is olive to black with red, orange, or yellow stripes on its extremities.

The painted turtle eats aquatic vegetation, algae, and small water creatures including insects, crustaceans, and fish. Although they are frequently consumed as eggs or hatchlings by rodents, canines, and snakes, the adult turtles' hard shells protect them from most predators except alligators and raccoons.

- Hibernate underwater for up to 5 months.

- Painted Turtles are omnivores.
- Painted Turtles cannot generate their own body heat.

15. Green Frog

- Primarily carnivores, termed as "sit and wait" predators eating whatever comes within reach.
- The female chooses her mate based on the desirability of his territory for laying eggs.
- Breeding territories are found in shallow water and are reported to be 3-20 feet in diameter.
- Breeding takes place in late Spring. The length of the breeding season is 1-3 months.

16. Snapping Turtles

- Omnivores
- Incredible swimmers and have been known to swim many miles in only a few hours.
- The common snapping turtle can move it's neck so quickly, that it can easily catch 2 to 3 fish in one unsuspecting bite.
- The snapping turtles bite is so strong, that it could snap a persons finger off in less than a second.
- One female snapping turtle is capable of laying up to 83 eggs in one sitting.
- Snapping Turtles can live to be 50 years old and weigh as much as 50 lbs.

17. The Great Blue Heron

- Great Blue Herons swallow their prey whole
- A Great Blue Heron's bones are hollow so that they can take flight easier..
- Great Blue Herons always live near at least one water source.

18. Bluegill

- Most common sunfish and probably the most popular freshwater game fish in the United States.
- They are very aggressive fish and will eat just about anything.
- Bluegills begin spawning, or reproducing, when water temperatures reach about 70°F. Spawning may peak in May or June, but continues until water temperatures cool in the fall. Because of their long spawning season, Bluegills have very high reproductive potential, which often results in overpopulation. A single female can produce up to 50,000 eggs in one year.

19. Canadian Goose

- One of the most common waterfowl, or water birds, found in this area of the United States.
- Like other geese, these birds are chiefly grazers, feeding on stubble fields and eating marsh vegetation.
- The female geese will lay their eggs in early spring. During this time, the male stands guard on the nest while the female incubates, or keeps warm, the eggs for 28 days until they are ready to hatch.
- By August, the family is ready to take flight, they stop often along the way to eat and gain a layer of fat for their long flight south for the winter.
- The V shaped pattern used by Canadian Geese when flying south for the Winter is used to show strength within their group.

20. Mallards

- Feed by "dabbling" and upending, meaning that they tip their bodies into water, bill first, tail in the air, to look for food.
- Their diet is 90% vegetarian.

21. Trees

- Deciduous means falling off at maturity or tending to fall off and is typically used in reference to trees or shrubs that lose their leaves seasonally and to the shedding of other plant structures such as petals after flowering or fruit when ripe.