

NATURE'S THRONE INVENTORY LIST

Find all the animals and plants and take your picture on
"Nature's Throne."



1. **BARN OWL** - Ghostly pale and normally strictly nocturnal, barn owls are silent predators of the night world. The owl is lanky, with a whitish face, chest, belly, and buffy upperparts. It roosts in hidden, quiet places during the day. By night, they hunt on buoyant wingbeats in open fields and meadows. You can find them by listening for their eerie, raspy calls, quite unlike the hoots of other owls. Despite a worldwide distribution, barn owls are declining in parts of their range due to habitat loss.



2. **BEAVER** - The beaver is the largest native North American rodent. Its stocky, compact body is covered with rich brown fur. It has webbed hind feet and a broad, flattened scaly tail. The average adult weighs 35 to 40 pounds but large beavers of 70 pounds have been reported. When they reach two and a half years of age, they select mates for life. There is one species of beaver in North America. Beavers are distributed statewide in North Carolina.



3. **BIRCH TREE** – The birch is a thin-leaved deciduous hardwood tree that is closely related to the beech-oak family, Fagaceae. They are a typically rather short-lived pioneer species widespread in the Northern Hemisphere, particularly in northern areas of temperate climates and in boreal climates.



4. **BLACK BEAR** - The American black bear is a medium-sized bear endemic to North America. It is the continent's smallest and most widely distributed bear species. American black bears are omnivores, with their diets varying greatly depending on season and location. They typically live in largely forested areas, but will leave forests in search of food. They are sometimes attracted to human communities due to the immediate availability of food.



5. **GREAT BLUE HERON** - Whether poised at a river bend or cruising the coastline with slow, deep wingbeats, the great blue heron is a majestic sight. This stately heron with its subtle blue-gray plumage often stands motionless as it scans for prey or wades belly deep with long, deliberate steps. They may move slowly, but great blue herons can strike like lightning to grab a fish or snap up a gopher. In flight, look for this widespread heron's tucked-in neck and long legs trailing out behind.



6. **BOG TURTLE** - The bog turtle is North America's smallest turtle, growing only to 4.5 inches in length. It is recognized by the orange patch on either side of its head. It favors open, groundwater-fed wet meadows and bogs with tussock sedge and grasses. Its population has been reduced by invasive plants, urban development and the black-market pet trade. The bog turtle is protected under the United States' Endangered Species Act.



7. **BROOK TROUT * State Freshwater Fish** - Brook Trout are native to the eastern United States and Canada. Two strains of Brook Trout exist, and both are now found in North Carolina. Brook, Brown and Rainbow Trout require cold, clean water and are therefore generally restricted to mountain streams and lakes.



8. **BUCKEYE** - Perhaps the most distinctive physical features of this butterfly are its club-tipped antennae and its habit of holding the wings vertically over its back when at rest. The lepidopteran life cycle has four stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult (imago).



9. **CAROLINA LILY * State Wildflower** - Named for Andre Michaux, a noted eighteenth century naturalist and explorer, the Carolina lily grows throughout the southeast, from West Virginia to Florida. It can bloom as late as October, though it is most prevalent in July and August. It is not endangered but it is rare, as the plants are slow growing and do not produce many seeds



10. **CARDINALS *State Bird** - North Carolina designated the Northern cardinal as the official state bird in 1943. One of America's favorite backyard birds, cardinals are distinctive in appearance and song - known for their "cheer cheer cheer," "whit-chew whit-chew" and "purty purty purty" whistles.



11. **CATTAILS** - These perennials are tall sturdy plants that can grow to almost 10 feet tall. Underwater, they provide a safe haven for tiny fish and attract many of the smaller aquatic creatures that birds and other wildlife feed on. They create a shelter from winter cold and wind for mammals and birds and are a source of nesting material with their leaves and seeds. Fun Fact!! - Seeds were once used to stuff lifejackets.



12. **COPPERHEAD** - The copperhead is one of the two venomous snakes in Western North Carolina. It derives its common name from the coppery brown head. The copperhead is known by such local names as "pilot," "chunkhead," "poplar leaf" and "highland moccasin."



13. **FLOWERING DOGWOOD * State Flower** - The blossom of the dogwood tree was designated as the official state flower of North Carolina in 1941. The dogwood is one of the most common trees in North Carolina, found in all parts of the state from the mountains to the coast.



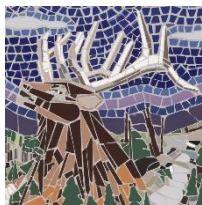
14. **EASTERN BOX TURTLE * State Reptile** - Eastern box turtles are the only terrestrial turtle found in North Carolina, and in 1979 they were selected as North Carolina's State Reptile. Box turtle sightings are common throughout North Carolina. The box turtle was named for its ability to completely box up inside its shell when it feels threatened. You can help box turtles by removing them from roadways but leaving them in their habitat.



15. **EASTERN PONDHAWK** - The eastern pondhawk, also known as the common pondhawk, is native to the eastern two-thirds of the United States and southern Ontario and Quebec, Canada. It is a dragonfly of ponds and still waters. The female is bright green with a banded abdomen.



16. **EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL * State Butterfly** - The Eastern tiger swallowtail is one of the most common and recognizable North Carolina butterflies and is found in all 100 counties. The North Carolina General Assembly designated the Eastern tiger swallowtail as North Carolina's official state butterfly in 2012.



17. **ELK** - Since 2001, a small but growing population of elk has lived in their ancestral range in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They are one of the largest species within the deer family and one of the largest terrestrial mammals in North America and Central and East Asia. At this moment, more elk roam the North Carolina mountains than at any time over the last 200 years.



18. **FLYING SQUIRREL** - This diminutive rodent with the big saucer-like eyes is probably the most common mammal never seen by humans in North Carolina. It occupies habitat like that of the gray squirrel and, to a lesser extent, the fox squirrel, yet because it is a nocturnal species, it is not seen as often as the other two.



19. **GRANITE * State Rock** - The General Assembly of 1979 designated granite as the official state rock. North Carolina is blessed with an abundance of granite. When granite is crushed, it is used as an aggregate for road and building construction.



20. **GREY SQUIRREL * State Mammal** - The Eastern gray squirrel is the most common and frequently observed of North Carolina's five tree squirrel species. The gray squirrel is found in every county and was adopted as the state mammal in 1969. Gray squirrels are enjoyed by wildlife-watchers and hunters alike. They are diurnal (active in the daytime).



21. **HELLBENDER** - The Eastern hellbender is one of only three giant salamanders found in the world. North Carolina is home to more than 65 species of salamanders, with over 50 species in the mountain region alone. The Eastern hellbender is one of the largest salamanders found in North Carolina and the United States. Only the Greater Siren and the Two-toed Amphiuma, both large eel-like salamanders, are longer. Hellbenders are 16 to 17 inches long on average, but they can grow to be more than two feet long and weigh more than three pounds. It is listed as a state and federally protected species.



22. **HONEYBEE * State Insect** - In 1973, the North Carolina General Assembly named the Honeybee as the Official State Insect of North Carolina. Honeybees are important for helping pollinate plants, and without them we would not be able to enjoy many berries, fruits and vegetables. Unlike native bees, these bees are new to the Americas and were brought here by Europeans. They also produce honey and make wax in their hives.



23. **JACK IN THE PULPIT** - The Jack-in-the-pulpit is a somewhat common, perennial plant that is found across eastern North America, from Texas to the Canadian Maritimes. Jack-in-the-pulpit is an intriguing wildflower native to eastern and midwestern North America but is easily grown in shade gardens elsewhere.



24. **JEWELWEED** - One of our most beautiful native plants, Jewelweed is a great source of nectar eaten by hummingbirds and other nectar feeders. Its purported medicinal properties have long been valued. Often, jewelweed is relegated to putting its roots down in roadside ditches and other wet, disturbed sites. This plant goes by a number of common names, including ear jewel, kicking colt, ladies earring, silverleaf and a host of others. However, here in the Tar Heel State it is most known as touch-me-not and, just simply, jewelweed. It can help neutralize urushiol, the irritating poison ivy oil.



25. **MARBLED SALAMANDER * State Salamander** - The marbled salamander is a relatively common resident throughout North Carolina. Sporting white or gray bands across its body, this secretive species is known to hide out beneath leaves and logs. Marbled salamanders are part of the “mole salamander” family, which is a group of salamanders endemic to North America, and the only genus in the family Ambystomatidae. The marbled salamander is North Carolina’s State Salamander, thanks, in part, to efforts by the N.C. Herpetological Society, which helped lead the effort to designate state amphibians. The designation became official on June 26, 2013.



26. **MONARCH** – This butterfly is one of the most recognized in the country. Every year they fly up to 3,000 miles during one of nature’s most spectacular migrations. Monarchs can travel up to 100 miles a day; they hibernate in central Mexico from the beginning of November to mid March. Help them out by planting their caterpillars’ favorite food, the milkweed plant.



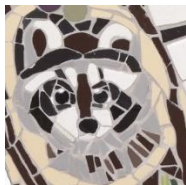
27. **PILEATED WOODPECKER** - The pileated woodpecker is one of the biggest, most striking forest birds on the continent. It is nearly the size of a crow; black with bold white stripes down the neck and a flaming-red crest. Look and listen, for pileated woodpeckers whacking at dead trees and fallen logs in search of their main prey, carpenter ants. In their search, they leave unique rectangular holes in the wood. Their nest holes offer crucial shelter to many species including swifts, owls, ducks, bats, and pine martens.



28. **PINE BARRENS TREEFROG** ***State Frog** - On June 26, 2013, the Pine Barrens Treefrog became the Official State Frog in North Carolina. It is found in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain regions of North Carolina. Its colors of emerald green, yellow and orange, make it one of the most striking and beautiful frogs in the Southeast region of the United States.



29. **PINE TREE** * **State Tree** - The pine tree was designated as the official state tree of North Carolina in 1963. The state's nickname "Tar Heel State" originates from colonial production of tar, pitch, rosin and turpentine from the state's extensive pine forests.



30. **RACCOON** - Bandit-masked raccoons are a familiar sight just about everywhere, because they will eat just about anything. These ubiquitous mammals are found in forests, marshes, prairies and even in cities. They are adaptable and use their dexterous front paws and long fingers to find and feast on a wide variety of fare.



31. **RED FOX** - Red foxes have long snouts and red fur across the face, back, sides, and tail. Their throat, chin, and belly are grayish white. They have black feet and black-tipped ears that are large and pointy. One of the most noticeable characteristics of

the red fox is the fluffy, white-tipped tail. They are about three feet long and two feet tall and are found in the United States from Alaska to Florida.



32. **RED MEADOW HAWK** - Red-veined meadowhawks will eat almost any soft-bodied flying insect such as mosquitoes, flies, small moths, mayflies, and flying ants or termites. Dragonflies begin their lives underwater as aquatic nymphs.



33. **RED SPOTTED NEWT** - The red-spotted newt, also known as the Eastern newt, is a common newt of eastern North America. It frequents small lakes, ponds, and streams or nearby wet forests. The Eastern newt produces tetrodotoxin, which makes the species unpalatable to predatory fish and crayfish. It has a lifespan of 12 to 15 years in the wild, and it can grow to five inches in length.



34. **RED-TAILED HAWK** - This is the most widespread and familiar large hawk in North America. Its bulky and broad-winged body is designed for effortless soaring. An inhabitant of open country, it is commonly seen perched on roadside poles.



35. **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** – This is one of the most abundant birds across North America, and one of the most boldly colored. The red-winged blackbird is a familiar sight atop cattails, along soggy roadside ditches, and on telephone wires.



36. **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** - The ruby-throated hummingbird is the most common hummingbird seen east of the Mississippi. These brilliant, tiny, precision-flying creatures glitter like jewels in the full sun, then vanish with a zip toward the next nectar source. Enjoy them while they are around; by early fall they are bound for Central America, with many crossing the Gulf of Mexico in a single flight.



37. **SCUPPERNONG * State Fruit** - Named the state fruit of North Carolina in 2001, scuppernong is a bronze-green variety of the muscadine grape. It was the first grape actively cultivated in the United States. Once also called the white grape, the big white grape, and the Roanoke grape, the scuppernong gained popularity and notoriety as a wine grape on the south side of Albemarle Sound. In 1811 it was named after the Scuppernong River.



38. **STRAWBERRIES *State Red Berry** - in 2001, the General Assembly named the strawberry as the official Red Berry of North Carolina and named the blueberry as the official Blue Berry of the state. Strawberries are one of the most consumed fruits in the world. In 2009, North Carolina farmers harvested 1,500 acres — or 19.5 million pounds — of strawberries worth nearly \$20.5 million dollars.



39. **SWEET AUTUMN CLEMATIS** – This is a plant in the buttercup family, a native of Northeastern Asia that was introduced to the U.S. in the late 1800s as an ornamental plant. Considered an invasive plant it has spread over all three regions of the state.



40. **TURKEY** - Wild turkeys now exist in all 100 counties of North Carolina, with the latest figures showing an increase from an estimated 2,000 birds in 1970 to an estimated 270,000 birds in 2020. You may even see them roaming your neighborhood.



41. **VIRGINIA OPOSSUM * State Marsupial** - In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted the Virginia opossum – or possum – as the Official Marsupial of the State of North Carolina. This shy animal is native to North Carolina and is the only marsupial found in North America.



42. **VENUS FLY TRAP** ***State Carnivorous Plant** - native to only a small area of the coastal plain in North and South Carolina. There are 66 species of carnivorous plants in the United States, and an astounding 36 of them live in North Carolina. Acidic soils, low nutrients, and a high-water table provide excellent habitat for carnivorous plants to thrive. These conditions exist in select patches across the state, ranging from longleaf pine savannas in the coastal plain to mountain bogs in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains.



43. **WATERFALLS** - The North Carolina mountains are home to hundreds of waterfalls, including more than 250 in the Brevard area alone. Waterfalls play a key role in the local ecology and culture, and they provide us with beauty, peace, wonder, and healing.



44. **YELLOW WILDFLOWER, ASTER** - Wild asters are hardy plants, often coloring the landscape where other blooms have given up for the season. Also known as starworts or frost flowers, the Aster genus includes around 600 species and they are prolific in North America and southern Europe.