

# Exploring Wild Wetlands

**Put on your rubber boots, engage your sense of observation and head to a Wild Wetland near you to find these 18 Scavenger Hunt items!**

## **How to use this guide:**

1. Print these sheets of plants and animals you may see or hear while exploring a Wild Wetland.
2. Attach the photos to a clipboard and head outdoors!
3. When you spot an item, mark one of the circles beside the name of the appropriate photo.
4. Remember to "take only photos, leave only footprints".

## **Did you know?**

Wild Wetlands are so important to the ecosystem. They have many jobs, including:

- Filtering pollutants and cleaning water - think of a coffee filter
- Slowing down run-off and retaining water to prevent flooding, kind of like a sponge
- Creating nutrient-rich soil through sedimentation and decomposition
- Providing a place for migratory birds to rest
- Acting as the habitat and breeding ground for fish, birds and other wild life
- Providing abundant, easily accessible nutrient-rich foods for wildlife and humans



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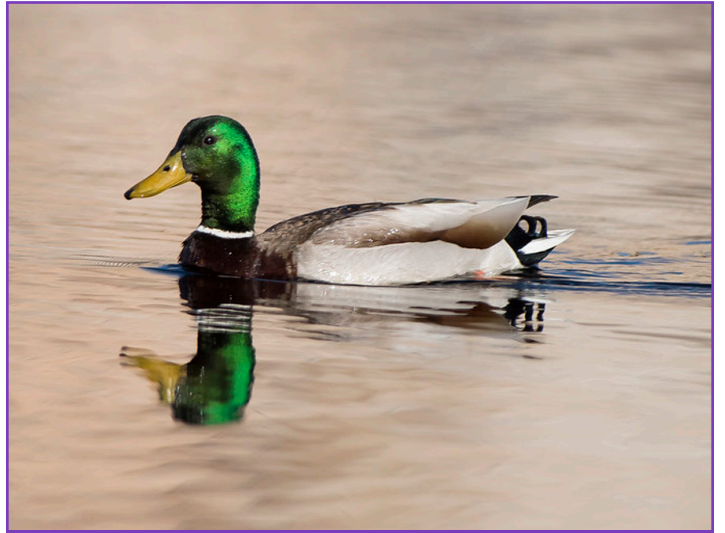
Cattail



Water Lily



Wood chewed by a beaver



Mallard Duck



Painted Turtle



Water Strider





Photo: David Withers

**Caddisfly Larvae**



**Mosquito Larvae**



**Dragonfly**

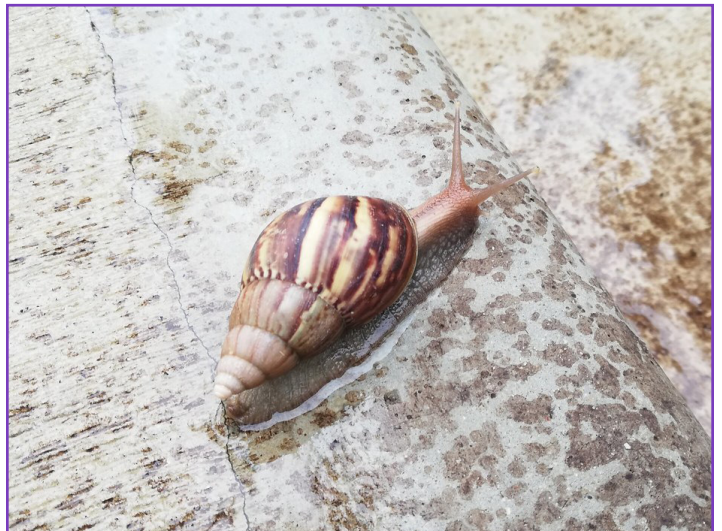


Photo: microbe

**Muskrat Lodge**



**Muskrat**



**Pond Snails**

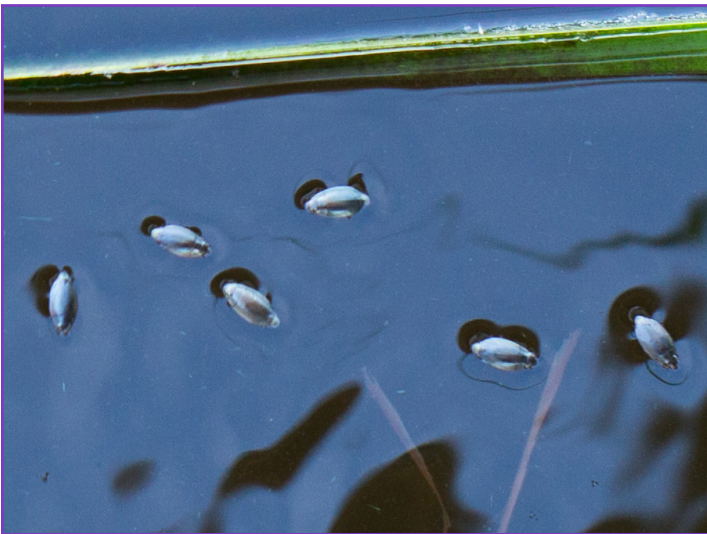




Red-winged Blackbird



A frog calling



Whirligig Beetle



Photo: Odd Wellies

Leech



Great Blue Heron



Animal tracks in mud