

# Conservation

## Fun Outdoors!

Late spring is when you can find a bunch of bugs and start your own insect collection. You will need to learn how to properly capture, kill, mount, and label the insects. Creating your own insect collection gives you a chance to learn about the wide and wonderful world of insects. A collection preserves insects and helps you to identify them, recognize body parts and learn how they live their lives. To learn more, to <https://tinyurl.com/collectbugs>.

## Hunting Tip

If you are a youngster wanting to have a great time outdoors, ask a parent or a trusted adult to take you squirrel hunting. Oklahoma's squirrel season is open from May 15 to Jan. 31. These hunts will help you develop safety, marksmanship, and confidence. Squirrels are smart, so you'll surely develop patience, too.

## Fishing Tip

Using minnows for bait often leads to angling success. But keeping minnows fresh and lively can be tough as days get warmer. Keep minnows in an insulated bucket (not in the lake) with water about 55 degrees. A great way to do this is to freeze some plastic bottles of water ahead of time, then put one in the minnow bucket when you buy your bait. When the bottle thaws, replace it with a new frozen bottle.

# for Kids!

## Word Search: Nongame Fish and Wildlife

W	T	M	S	C	U	L	P	I	N	P	X	G	O	J	J
Y	A	X	O	F	T	F	I	W	S	Q	U	H	D	K	M
I	B	N	Y	Y	M	E	E	H	Z	F	E	O	O	I	C
T	D	Q	N	G	M	B	K	C	Q	P	X	O	R	W	M
E	I	C	H	I	P	M	U	N	K	F	S	W	B	O	T
P	L	P	R	Z	A	C	U	I	R	A	W	W	U	O	K
I	L	N	E	O	O	H	W	F	X	K	J	S	A	D	X
L	A	I	Y	E	A	N	P	E	M	Q	E	J	S	C	Z
M	P	Z	Y	S	I	H	B	S	K	Z	B	R	Q	H	N
J	O	Z	E	F	U	U	W	U	K	M	S	E	N	U	J
X	P	B	B	U	H	C	T	O	P	S	D	E	R	C	A
K	P	H	H	Z	L	T	G	H	B	R	M	D	B	K	D
E	N	Z	F	P	Z	F	G	M	R	S	L	L	C	B	K
Y	T	F	L	G	O	S	P	R	E	Y	Y	L	D	P	U
J	U	D	A	O	T	W	S	F	N	X	L	I	K	C	P
N	E	O	S	H	O	M	U	C	K	E	T	K	P	E	Y

Find and circle the names of these nongame wildlife and fish species found in Oklahoma.

Chipmunk  
Mouse  
Pallid Bat  
Swift Fox

House Finch  
Neosho Mucket  
Redspot Chub  
Toad

Killdeer  
Osprey  
Sculpin  
Woodchuck

## COOL FACTS Three-toed Box Turtles:

- Box turtles are named after their ability to close their bottom shell up against their upper shell to completely hide and protect its head and limbs.
- Its name refers to its hind feet, which commonly have three toes each. The front feet can have four or five toes each.
- Shell color pattern can be quite variable but they are typically a tan or brown with some yellow spots or light stripes.
- These turtles can live 50 to 100 years.
- Box turtles removed from their home areas rarely adapt to new areas and often don't survive.



STEVE WEBBER

- Oklahoma's other species of box turtle is the plains box turtle.
- They bury themselves and go dormant during winter.
- They are active from April through October.
- Box turtles eat insects, worms, mushrooms, and fruit.
- Males have red eyes and some orange on the head and neck, while females have yellow-brown eyes.
- They are primarily land turtles but can easily swim across ponds or creeks.



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## Color a Critter: Three-toed Box Turtle

