

# Conservation for Kids!

## Fun Outdoors!

Our feathered friends can have a tough time finding enough food during winter, especially when snow covers everything. Why not help them out by providing a homemade bird feeder? Using wild bird seed, lard or vegetable shortening, string and paper cups, it's an easy project. Hang by a window and keep a list of the bird species that visit. To learn about this project, go to <https://growingfamily.co.uk/craft/homemade-bird-feeders>.

## Hunting Tip

There is still plenty of hunting action available in Oklahoma through February 2024. Archery seasons remain open until Jan. 15 for deer, elk, and turkey. Duck season is open through Jan. 3 in the Panhandle and through Jan. 28 in the rest of the state. Pheasant season is open through Jan. 31. Quail season is open through Feb. 15. Squirrel season is open through Feb. 28. Furbearer season is open through Feb. 29. Rabbit season is open through March 15.

## Fishing Tip

The average water temperature in Oklahoma's lakes during January and February is from 40 to 55 degrees. Those chilly conditions cause many of our game fish to slow down and curtail feeding activities. But there are some fish species that still offer some good fish-catching opportunities throughout the winter. Surprisingly these fish include crappie and channel catfish!

## Word Search: Animals That Are Trapped

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

Find and circle these animals that are pursued by trappers in Oklahoma.

Beaver  
River Otter  
Nutria  
Badger

Muskrat  
Coyote  
Red Fox  
Mink

Bobcat  
Striped Skunk  
Gray Fox  
Opossum

## COOL FACTS About the Raccoon:

- Some raccoons live up to six years in the wild, but most live about two years.
- Adults weigh from 8 to 35 pounds and are usually about 2.5 feet long.
- They are highly adaptable to many habitats and can be seen in urban areas.
- Raccoons are nocturnal and solitary for most of the year.
- They have dense fur with a characteristic dark “mask” running across their eyes.
- They will eat hundreds of species of plants and animals, including fruits, crayfish and insects.
- Females give birth to an average of four blind and nearly hairless cubs in spring.
- The coonskin cap, as worn by Daniel Boone, was all the rage for American kids in the 1950s and '60s.
- Because populations have grown dramatically in the past decade, the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission created a year-round raccoon hunting season with no daily, season, or possession limits.



## Color a Critter: Raccoon

