

The Animal Hunt

Everything that is not a bird: mammals, fish, insects, snails and mussels, and one snake. Several have never been recorded here at all, which is its own kind of thing to look for.

Explorer: _____

How it works

1. Take a photograph of each thing on the list. Any camera counts - a phone is fine.
2. Tick the box when you have the picture, and write down where you were.
3. You do not have to get them in order, and you do not have to get them all.
4. Stay on roads, trails and public beaches. Ask before you cross anyone's land.
5. Look, don't touch: leave the plants growing and the bark on the trees.
6. If an animal changes what it is doing because of you, you are too close. Back away.

How hard is it? ★☆☆☆☆ seen all the time ★★★★★ very rarely seen

Before you go

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A camera, or a phone | ☐ Water, and a snack |
| ☐ Sunscreen and a hat | ☐ Shoes you can get wet |
| ☐ A pencil for this book | ☐ Bug spray in summer |

Two you may meet; three bats you leave alone.

White-tailed deer

Look at the edge of a field in the first or last hour of daylight. The tail flashes white when it runs.

★★★★☆

WHERE _____

Snowshoe hare

Brown in summer, white in winter. Huge back feet for the snow.

★★★★★

WHERE _____

The only two the archive names.

Whitefish

★★★★☆

WHERE

Lake trout

★★★★☆

WHERE

Four.



Emerald ash borer

★★★★★

WHERE



Yellow-banded bumble bee

A bumble bee with a yellow band across its back. Look on milkweed and thistle flowers. Only one has ever been recorded here - which may mean it is rare, or that nobody has looked properly.

★★★★★

WHERE

Snails & mussels

Freshwater, and none yet recorded here.



Campeloma spire snail

★★★★★

WHERE



Coldwater pondsnail

★★★★★

WHERE



Giant northern pea clam

★★★★★

WHERE



Great Lakes physa

★★★★★

WHERE



Lake floater

★★★★★

WHERE

One.

Smooth green snake

Small, bright green, and harmless. Very lucky to find - the record here has only three.

★★★★★

WHERE _____

Look, but don't go near

These are on the island, and they are not on your list. Some are protected by law, some are so rare that walking near them is the danger, and some nest in big noisy colonies that abandon their eggs if people come close. You can still photograph them - from far away, with a long lens, from a boat or a road. A photograph is never worth a nest.

Little brown bat *Myotis lucifugus*

Bats here are dying from a disease called white-nose syndrome. Never disturb a place where bats are sleeping.

Northern long-eared bat *Myotis septentrionalis*

Same disease, and now so rare it is protected by law. Roosting bats are not a photograph.

Tricolored bat *Perimyotis subflavus*

One of the smallest bats here, and also protected. Leave sleeping bats alone.

Hine's emerald dragonfly *Somatochlora hineana*

One of the rarest dragonflies in the world, with bright green eyes. It lives in a wet fen on Garden Island, and the ground it needs is squashed flat by people walking on it.

Lake Huron locust *Trimerotropis huroniana*

A grasshopper that lives only on open Great Lakes dunes and is the colour of sand. Walking on the dune is what harms it.

Draw the best thing you found

Made from the Beaver Island Archive. Nothing here was made up: the animals come from public observation records, the trees and plants from forest surveys, 1800s land-survey field notes and natural-features reports, the ground from geological mapping, and the places from the archive’s own encyclopedia. The complete list, and the reasons behind each entry, is at beaverislandarchive.org/photo-hunt/.