



BACKYARD WILDLIFE

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMON EASTERN BUMBLEBEE
Bombus impatiens



Description: Fuzzy; back is half yellow and half black.
Backyard Habitat: Gardens, flowerbeds; nests underground.
Fun Fact: One of 21 species of bumblebees in the East. Needs flowers all summer long and is one of few insects that can generate its own body heat. Rarely sting.

COMMON GREEN DARNER
Anax junius



Description: 2.5 – 3.5” long w/up to 4.4” wingspan. Green thorax and blue to purplish-gray abdomen.
Backyard Habitat: Edges of yards, gardens and open grassy areas.
Fun Fact: Residents complete their lifecycle in New Hampshire, while others migrate in August/September down to Florida or beyond.

COMMON EASTERN FIREFLY
Photinus pyralis



Description: Flat body up to 1” long. Dark brown wings and reddish-pink thorax. Specialized organs under the abdomen produce bioluminescence.
Backyard Habitat: Fields, meadows, open wooded areas, parks, gardens and back yards.
Fun Fact: The 2,000 species of fireflies worldwide each flash unique light patterns.

SPOTTED LADYBUG
Coleomegilla species



Description: Up to 0.3” long. Reddish-pink round or oval body, w/ black spots.
Backyard Habitat: Gardens and shrubby yard edges. May shelter in homes during fall.
Fun Fact: New Hampshire’s official State Insect; there are over 450 species of ladybugs in the U.S. and 5,000 worldwide.

© SVELTANA FOTTE / DREAMSTIME.COM

© BRANDON ALMS / DREAMSTIME.COM

COMPOSITE IMAGE

© DARIUS BAUZYS / DREAMSTIME.COM



GRAY CATBIRD
Dumetella carolinensis



Description: 8.5" long with 11" wingspan. Both sexes solid gray with black cap on head and chestnut under tail.
Backyard Habitat: Thick shrubs, hedgerows, yard edges, raspberry/blackberry brambles.
Fun Fact: Main call is a cat-like mewing. Songs mimic other birds, with each phrase sung only once.

© BRIAN KUSHNER / DREAMSTIME.COM

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH
Spinus tristis



Description: Both sexes pale yellow-green; only males turn bright yellow in summer.
Backyard Habitat: Gardens, yard edges, feeders.
Fun Fact: Nests in June/July when milkweed and thistle seeds are available to feed young. Males make a *po-ta-to-chip* call as they fly in an up-down pattern.

© BRIAN KUSHNER / DREAMSTIME.COM

GARTER SNAKE
Thamnophis sirtalis



Description: Up to 26". Has 2-3 yellow, brownish or greenish stripes; may have black spots between the stripes.
Backyard Habitat: Shelters under rocks, logs, stumps, and in wood piles.
Fun Fact: Garter snakes are good for gardens; they eat pests like slugs, grubs and mice.

© TEEKAYBEE / DREAMSTIME.COM

AMERICAN TOAD
Bufo a. americanus



Description: Reddish-brown, olive or gray, with dark spots and warts.
Backyard Habitat: Cool, moist areas like shaded yards or gravel driveways. Feeds on moths and other insects at night under outdoor lights.
Fun Fact: Loves to eat slugs. They have warts but won't give you warts.

© STEVE RUSSEL SMITH/DREAMSTIME.COM

SPOTTED SALAMANDER
Ambystoma maculatum



Description: Up to 8". Bluish-black body with yellow-orange spots. Slate gray below.
Backyard Habitat: Shelters in cool, moist dirt basements, under wood piles, logs and stumps.
Fun Fact: Adults return to the same vernal pool, where females lay up to 200 eggs every year.

© JASON P. ROSS / DREAMSTIME.COM

BIG BROWN BAT
Eptesicus fuscus



Description: 3.4-5.4" long with 13-16" wingspan. Chocolate-pale brown, with black wings, ears and face.
Backyard Habitat: In summer, roosts in barns, attics, bat boxes or tree cavities. In winter, hibernates in caves, mines or buildings.
Fun Fact: A female can eat her weight in garden pests each night.

Learn more about New Hampshire's wildlife at:
wildnh.com/nongame

