



Did you know that baby rabbits are called kittens?

You can tell **Appalachian cottontails** apart from Eastern cottontails is by a black spot in between their ears, black edging along the front of their ears, and smaller ears compared to the Eastern cottontails.



Groundhogs (Woodchuck) are native to North Carolina. Groundhogs are large, heavy-bodied rodents attaining weights of 5 to 12 pounds and can be up to 2 feet long. They are covered with coarse hair ranging in color from brown to reddish yellow, usually tipped with silver.

The groundhog has several nicknames, including “woodchuck,” “land beaver” and “whistlepig.” Whistlepig, is based on the high-pitched whistle that is used as an alarm to the rest of the colony.



The **Eastern Gray Squirrel** is common in North Carolina, and one of the squirrels that people do battle with the most at their backyard bird feeders! Many people have thrown up their hands in defeat as they try to stop these acrobatic mammals from taking over the bird feeders in their backyard. **Eastern Gray Squirrels LOVE birdseed and are relentless when they know an easy meal awaits inside a feeder.** Their favorite foods include sunflower seeds, peanuts, and corn.



The **Eastern Chipmunk** prefers open woodlands or forest edges, with plenty of cover and dry hillsides for digging burrows.

With reddish brown fur, a black stripe down the center of its back and a set of two black stripes, one on either side, the eastern chipmunk has distinctive coloring. Much smaller than squirrels, chipmunks measure 8 to 10 inches long, including 3 to 4 inches of tail.



The male **Eastern Wild Turkey** has dark plumage with striking bronze, copper and green iridescent colors. On the inside of their legs, males have pointed growths known as spurs that they use when battling other males for mates.

Males also have a growth of bristle-like feathers known as the “beard” that extends from the chest. It is not uncommon, however, to find females with a beard.



In North Carolina, the **Black Bear** is usually black with a brown muzzle and sometimes a white patch on its chest. Bears have five toes on each foot, with sharp curved claws that help them climb trees and feed on insects and grubs in decaying Black bears rely mostly on their sense of smell and hearing due to their average (similar to humans’) eyesight, but are adept at climbing, running, swimming and digging. They can run as fast as 35 miles per hour!

To avoid negative interactions, bears should never have access to human foods, garbage, pet food or bird food. Bears feeding on unnatural food sources around your home may lose their fear of humans and will be more likely to approach people — a situation that rarely ends well for the bear and could have potential safety issues for humans as well!