

Deciduous Forest Animals

Photo and Animal Information Resource:
[http://www.nhptv.org/natureworks/nwep8
c.htm](http://www.nhptv.org/natureworks/nwep8c.htm)

Opossum



The Opossum's tail grasps and wraps around tree limbs so it can hang by its tail for a short time. They have a special toe called a hallux that is like a human thumb which helps them grab branches while climbing. Opossums do not hibernate but will find shelter in very cold weather because its toes, tail, and hairless ears could get frostbite.

Pileated Woodpecker



The Pileated Woodpecker has a long sticky tongue and long, sharp pointed bill. The bill is used to peel bark off of trees to find ant colonies then the long sticky tongue pokes into the holes to drag out the ants. It can also dig out holes in trees to find insects and make nesting places. They are strong flyers but also can cling to the sides of trees with their feet.

Red Fox



The red fox eats a lot of different kinds of foods from fruits, berries, and grasses to animals such as birds, squirrels, rabbits, mice, and crayfish. A big part of a Red Fox diet is made up of insects such as crickets, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and beetles. If the Red Fox is full, he or she will keep hunting and store extra food under leaves, snow, or dirt. The Red Fox has excellent hearing and can hear animals digging underground. A fox usually hunts at night and wraps his big bushy tail around him to help stay warm when it sleeps during the day.

White-Tailed Deer



The White-tailed deer is tan or brown in the summer and gray-brown in the winter. It has white coloring underneath its body (including its tail) and around its throat and face. Deer eat plants in the morning and late afternoon. They eat green plants in the spring and summer, nuts and field corn in the fall and in the winter buds and twigs of woody plants. White-tailed deer can run as fast as 30 miles per hour and are great jumpers and swimmers.