

# Grassland Animals

Photo and Animal Information Resource:  
<http://www.nature.org/newsfeatures/specialfeatures/animals/grassland-animals.xml>

# Bison



The Bison is the largest land mammal in North America, up to 6 feet tall and weighing 1000 to 2000 pounds. Bison eat prairie grasses and travel between grassy areas in family or herd groups. They feed in the morning and evening, mostly on grasses and sedges, and rest during the day, chewing cud or wallowing in mud to rid themselves of parasites.

# African Bush Elephant



An African Bush Elephant can be as tall as 13 feet high, weigh as much as 11 tons, and can live to be 70 years old. It is the largest land mammal in the world. In addition to grasslands, the African Bush Elephant can live in desert and high rainforest habitats. They eat about 350 pounds of plants each day. Elephants use their trunk to drink: water is pulled from the ground into the trunk then blown into the mouth. Elephants live in family groups of females and young.

# Bobolink



The Bobolink nests in prairie grasslands in southern Canada and northern United states. In the winter, it migrates 5,000 miles to live in the grasslands and marshes of Argentina. The bobolink weighs 1.5 ounces and has a wingspan less than 12 inches across. Bobolinks eat insects during the summer but will eat ripening grain crops as they migrate south at the end of summer.

# Thomson's Gazelle



Gazelles can run about 50 miles per hour in the open grasslands where it lives near its predators: cheetahs and lions (both also very fast runners at speeds of 50 to 60 miles per hour). Thomson's Gazelle eat grassland plants and can conserve water in their bodies if needed.