

# WILDLIFE IN FORT COLLINS

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## ECOLOGY

Did you know that aquatic animals help ecologists conduct important research? Amphibians, fish and aquatic insects are very sensitive to pollution and can indicate when a river or lake is unhealthy for the local ecosystems. Many sciences call these species indicators, because they indicate when a body of water is polluted.

## SIZE

There is a large diversity of bird sizes in Fort Collins! Did you know that observing the size of a bird can help you identify its species? Songbirds such as Red Wined Black Birds and Robbins are about the size of pear, while Canada Geese are almost as big as a cat! Hummingbirds are very small, and are only the size of a small mouse!



## FOOD

What kind of food do you think mammals in Fort Collins eat? We may think that mammals such as bears are fierce predators, but in reality they have adapted their eating habits to thrive in ecosystems diverse in both plants and other wildlife. Black bears in Colorado actually eat more plants than meat. Smaller mammals like coyotes and raccoons are scavengers, and will eat just about anything they find!

## ABUNDANCE

Did you know that there are more invertebrates on earth than any other animal? Even if you can't see them, invertebrates surround you every day! How many different invertebrates can you find today?

