

Fact Sheet: Wildlife



- Alabama ranks fifth in the country in biodiversity due to abundant freshwater and unique geological ecosystems.
- The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation found 1.7 million Alabama residents and nonresidents 16 years and older fished, hunted or watched wildlife.



- In 2011, \$2.7 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in Alabama.
- Alabama is home to 93 native reptile species including 49 snakes, 31 turtles, 12 lizards and the American alligator.
- Sixty-two native mammal species call Alabama home including 22 species of rodents, 16 species of bats, 11 species of carnivores, six species of insectivores, four species of rabbits, one ungulate, one opossum and one armadillo.
- Alabama has 73 native amphibian species including 30 species of frogs and 43 species of salamanders.
- Alabama has 97 species of crayfish, more than any other state in the U.S. Six species of Alabama crayfish live only in caves and associated underground streams.
- The most diverse assemblage of mussels in the world – 180 species – is in Alabama.
- Wildlife rehabilitators are specifically permitted by the Alabama Department of Conservation, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to care for native game and nongame mammals with the goal of eventual release.
- The bald eagle is the only eagle unique to North America. In Alabama, bald eagle concentrations occur on Pickwick Lake near Waterloo and Guntersville Lake near Guntersville State Park.
- The eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), the flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*) and the fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) are the three most common squirrels found in Alabama.

Sources:
ACES.edu
Defenders.org
OutdoorAlabama.com
ThoughtCo.com