

Southeast District Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest

Edited 2-26-25

Eligibility:

1. Read general rules.
2. Members may be enrolled in any 4-H project.
3. Two, four member teams made of Novice members and two, four member teams of Junior members per county. Novices may be moved up to a junior team.

Contest Procedures:

This contest consists of two sections:

1. Wildlife Identification

25 slides worth 2 points per slide. Total of 50 points

Objective: To be able to identify wildlife species listed in the Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) Manual, Most Recent Edition and from the past contest list.

Wildlife managers must be able to identify the species for which they are managing. In this portion of the judging event, contestants will be asked to identify wildlife species from the complete list of species which is listed in the WHEP Manual on pages 69 – 70 plus 25 species that are pertinent to New Mexico from the previous 4-H Wildlife Contest list. **A complete list of species to be identified is available at the end of these rules.** Photos of the species used in the contest are readily available from a number of sources, including many field guides, websites, and the county extension offices. There will be twenty five species represented by a photograph of either the male or female in either the juvenile or adult stage. The contestant is asked to identify the species by writing the number of the slide in the appropriate blank on the answer sheet. If the judges cannot read the intent of the contestant, the answer will be considered incorrect.

2. General Knowledge

25 questions worth 2 points each. Total of 50 points.

The format will be set up as a practicum with 25 stations.

Objective: To know and understand the biology and behaviors of the wildlife species featured in the WHEP Manual, January 2015 Edition.

The complete list of Wildlife Species in the WHEP Manual has been broken up into five years. Questions for this portion of the contest will be utilized only for the WILDLIFE SPECIES LISTED FOR THE CURRENT YEAR (SEE SPECIES LIST AT END OF CONTEST INFORMATION).

Wildlife Species information is listed on pages 71-215 of the WHEP Manual. Information will be taken **ONLY** from the “General Information” and “Habitat Requirements” sections of the Wildlife Species information and only for the species listed for the current year. Students are also encouraged to study the wildlife tracks and wildlife skulls, if those species are included in the current year’s list. Additional questions may be

derived from identification points of the species – example: By looking at this wing specimen, what is the specie’s primary diet? Another example: By looking at this skull and identifying the animal, where does the species obtain most of its water?

General Rules:

- A. Contestants are NOT allowed to touch or handle specimens during the contest. Contestants may be eliminated from the contest for touching or handling specimen.
- B. Observers will not be permitted in the contest area before the contest or while the contest is in progress.
- C. Contestants must complete both sections of the contest before leaving the contest area. Contestants are NOT allowed to have any electronic devices including cell phones, IPODs, blackberries, MP3 players, etc. with them in the contest area. Having any electronic devices with them in the contest area is grounds for disqualification.

Scoring the Contest:

The entire Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest is worth a total of 100 points.

1. The Wildlife Identification activity is worth a total of 50 points with each slide worth 2 points each. Incorrect answers and illegible answers will be marked wrong.
2. The General Knowledge activity is worth a total of 50 points with each station worth 2 points apiece. Incorrect answers and illegible answers will be marked wrong.

Tie Breakers:

Team

1. Total Wildlife Identification score of top three team members
2. Total General Knowledge score of top three team members

Individual

1. Wildlife Identification score
2. General Knowledge score

Resources:

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program Manual, Most Recent Edition:

<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/WHEP/2015WHEP-entire-manual.pdf>

Wildlife Identification Slides are available on CD from your county extension office or online at:

<http://oteroextension.nmsu.edu/4h.html>

FFA Wildlife Contest Wildlife Tracks:

http://www.nmsu.edu/~nmffa/Documents/CDEs/wildlife_tracks.pdf

FFA Wildlife Contest Wildlife Skulls:

http://www.nmsu.edu/~nmffa/Documents/CDEs/wildlife_skulls.pdf

Wildlife Species List by Year: See following page

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION CONTEST
SPECIES STUDY LIST
FOR
GENERAL INFORMATION AND HABITAT REQUIREMENTS**

2025

BIRDS

northern harrier
northern pintail
Nuttall's woodpecker
ovenbird
peregrine falcon
prairie falcon
prothonotary warbler
pyrrhuloxia
red-cockaded woodpecker
red-eyed vireo
red-tailed hawk
red head
ring-necked pheasant
rock pigeon
ruby-throated hummingbird
ruffed grouse
sage thrasher

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

mink
moose
mountain cottontail
mountain lion
New England cottontail
pronghorn
raccoon
gopher tortoise
plains hog-nosed snake
rough-skinned newt
tiger salamander
largemouth bass

2026

BIRDS

scaled quail
sharp-tailed grouse
song sparrow
sooty grouse
southwest willow flycatcher
spotted sandpiper
spotted towhee
Virginia rail
Western bluebird
Western kingbird
white-tailed ptarmigan
white-winged dove
wild turkey
Wilson's snipe
wood duck
yellow-rumped warbler

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

red fox
red squirrel
river otter
Rocky mountain mule deer
snowshoe hare
white-tailed deer
javelina
Texas horned lizard
timber rattlesnake
western diamond-backed rattlesnake
wood frog
rainbow trout

2027

BIRDS

American bittern
American black duck
American kestrel
American robin
American wigeon
American woodcock
barred owl
black-backed woodpecker
black-bellied whistling duck
black-capped chickadee
black-throated sparrow
blue-winged teal
Brewer's sparrow
broad winged hawk
brown thrasher
California quail
California thrasher
Canada goose

MAMMALS AND OTHER

SPECIES

American beaver
American marten
big brown bat
black bear
black-tailed jackrabbit
black-tailed prairie dog
bobcat
eastern box turtle
American bullfrog
blue gill

2028

BIRDS

common nighthawk
crested caracara
crissal thrasher
dickcissel
dusky grouse
eastern bluebird
eastern meadowlark
European starling
ferruginous hawk
Gambel's quail
golden eagle
golden-cheeked warbler
golden-fronted woodpecker
golden-winged warbler
grasshopper sparrow
great horned owl
greater prairie-chicken
greater roadrunner

MAMMALS AND OTHER

SPECIES

Brazilian free-tailed bat
collared peccary
Columbian black-tailed deer
common muskrat
coyote
desert cottontail
eastern cottontail
eastern indigo snake
crawfish frog
channel catfish

2029

BIRDS

greater sage-grouse
hairy woodpecker
house finch
house sparrow
house wren
ladder-backed woodpecker
lark bunting
Lawrence's goldfinch
loggerhead shrike
long-billed thrasher
mallard
marbled murrelet
mountain bluebird
mourning dove
northern bobwhite
northern flicker
northern goshawk

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

eastern fox squirrel
eastern gray squirrel
elk
fisher
gray fox
Indiana bat
eastern snapping turtle
Gila monster
Monterey salamander
northern red-legged frog
Coho salmon
cutthroat trout

Name _____ County _____ Team # _____

Southeast District 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest PRACTICUM

Please write the corresponding letter to each question neatly on the lines below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

21. _____

22. _____

23. _____

24. _____

25. _____

NAME _____ County _____

Southeast District 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest

Birds

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ American bittern | _____ Golden-cheeked warbler | _____ Prothonotary warbler |
| _____ American black duck | _____ Golden-fronted wood pecker | _____ Pyrrhuloxia |
| _____ American kestrel | _____ Golden-winged warbler | _____ Red-cockaded woodpecker |
| _____ American robin | _____ Grasshopper sparrow | _____ Red-eyed vireo |
| _____ American wigeon | _____ Great horned owl | _____ Red-tailed hawk |
| _____ American woodcock | _____ Greater prairie-chicken | _____ Red head |
| _____ Barred owl | _____ Greater roadrunner | _____ Ring-necked pheasant |
| _____ Black-backed wood pecker | _____ Greater sage-grouse | _____ Rock pigeon |
| _____ Back-bellied whistling duck | _____ Hairy woodpecker | _____ Ruby-throated humming bird |
| _____ Black-capped chickadee | _____ House finch | _____ Ruffed grouse |
| _____ Black-throated sparrow | _____ House sparrow | _____ Sage thrasher |
| _____ Blue-winged teal | _____ House wren | _____ Scaled quail |
| _____ Brewer's sparrow | _____ Ladder-backed woodpecker | _____ Sharp-tailed grouse |
| _____ Broad-winged hawk | _____ Lark bunting | _____ Song sparrow |
| _____ Brown thrasher | _____ Lawrence's goldfinch | _____ Sooty grouse |
| _____ California quail | _____ Loggerhead shrike | _____ Southwest willow flycatcher |
| _____ California thrasher | _____ Long-billed thrasher | _____ Spotted sandpiper |
| _____ Canada goose | _____ Mallard | _____ Spotted towhee |
| _____ Common nighthawk | _____ Marbled murrelet | _____ Virginia rail |
| _____ Crested caracara | _____ Mountain bluebird | _____ Western bluebird |
| _____ Crissal thrasher | _____ Mourning dove | _____ Western kingbird |
| _____ Dickcissel | _____ Northern bobwhite | _____ White-tailed ptarmigan |
| _____ Dusky grouse | _____ Northern flicker | _____ White-winged dove |
| _____ Eastern bluebird | _____ Northern goshawk | _____ Wild turkey |
| _____ Eastern meadowlark | _____ Northern harrier | _____ Wilson's snipe |
| _____ European starling | _____ Northern pintail | _____ Wood duck |
| _____ Ferruginous hawk | _____ Nuttall's woodpecker | _____ Yellow-rumped warbler |
| _____ Gambel's quail | _____ Ovenbird | |
| _____ Golden eagle | _____ Peregrine falcon | |
| | _____ Prairie falcon | |

Mammals

- _____ American beaver
- _____ American marten
- _____ Big brown bat
- _____ Black bear
- _____ Black-tailed jackrabbit
- _____ Black-tailed prairie dog
- _____ Bobcat
- _____ Brazilian free-tailed bat
- _____ Columbian black-tailed deer
- _____ Common muskrat
- _____ Coyote
- _____ Desert cottontail
- _____ Eastern cottontail
- _____ Eastern fox squirrel
- _____ Eastern gray squirrel
- _____ Elk
- _____ Fisher
- _____ Gray fox
- _____ Indiana bat
- _____ Javelina (Collared peccary)
- _____ Mink
- _____ Moose
- _____ Mountain cottontail
- _____ Mountain lion
- _____ New England cottontail
- _____ Pronghorn
- _____ Raccoon
- _____ Red fox
- _____ Red squirrel
- _____ River otter
- _____ Rocky Mountain mule deer
- _____ Snowshoe hare
- _____ White-tailed deer

Reptiles

- _____ Eastern box turtle
- _____ Eastern indigo snake
- _____ Eastern snapping turtle
- _____ Gila monster
- _____ Gopher tortoise
- _____ Plains hog-nosed snake
- _____ Texas horned lizard
- _____ Timber rattlesnake
- _____ Western diamond-backed rattlesnake

Amphibians

- _____ American bullfrog
- _____ Crawfish frog
- _____ Monterey salamander
- _____ Northern red-legged frog
- _____ Rough-skinned newt
- _____ Tiger salamander
- _____ Wood frog

Fish

- _____ Blue gill
- _____ Channel catfish
- _____ Coho salmon
- _____ Cutthroat trout
- _____ Largemouth bass
- _____ Rainbow trout