

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



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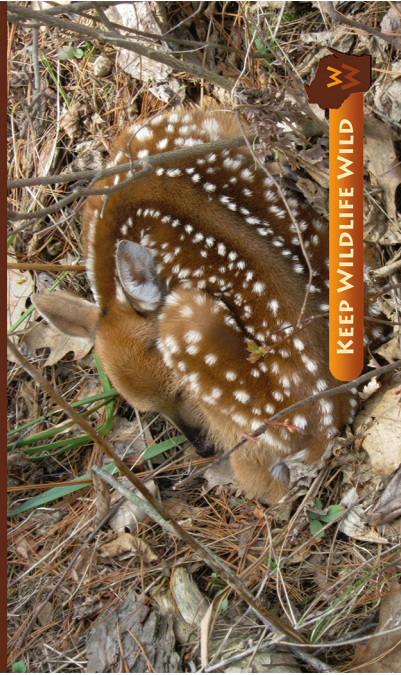
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RACCOON KITS

Procyon lotor

BORN WILD: Raccoons typically make their dens in tree cavities, but will sometimes occupy the attics and chimneys of houses. During the spring months, raccoon "kits" are born into litters of 2 to 6. Their eyes begin to open at about 3 weeks of age and at 4 weeks, teeth begin to erupt. At 4-6 weeks, they are capable of walking, climbing and running, and may begin to explore alternate den sites with their mother.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD: If you find healthy young raccoons less than 6 weeks old, outside their den, have an adult use leather gloves to place them into a ventilated box near the den entrance or at the base of a tree overnight for the mother to retrieve them. If the young are still there the next morning, contact WDNR (1-888-936-7463) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Raccoon young older than 8 weeks are sometimes found exploring outside their den without their mother's supervision. This is normal behavior for this age. Monitor their activity and condition from a distance. If they appear healthy and are just exploring their surroundings, leave them alone. If they appear to have an injury, illness, or are truly orphaned, contact WDNR or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

REMEMBER: A baby's best chance for survival is with its mother!

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WM-602 2015



YOUNG SONGBIRDS

Numerous Species

BORN WILD: Once songbird eggs hatch, the featherless "nestlings" remain in the nest for about two weeks, completely dependent on the parents for warmth and food. They often leave the nest (fledge) prior to the full development of their feathers, and for the next several days to weeks the "fledglings" are often seen hopping on the ground or in low branches. As long as they have feathers and are not injured, this stage is a natural and important part of a bird's development.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD: If you find a young bird on the ground without feathers and can locate its nest, have an adult use gloves to place it back in the nest. Contrary to popular belief, birds will not abandon their young if they detect human scent. If the nest has been destroyed, create an artificial nest in a slatted berry box or other container with drainage holes lined with tissues and soft dry grass. Secure the artificial nest in a location close to where the original nest was. If the parents do not return to the nest within an hour, or if the young songbird is injured, sick or truly orphaned, contact WDNR (1-888-936-7463) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

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WM-605 2015



TREE SQUIRREL KITS

Gray, fox, red and flying squirrels

BORN WILD: Squirrels can have multiple litters each year so squirrel young, called "kits," may be encountered any time from spring through fall. Squirrel kits are born hairless, with their eyes and ears closed, and only about the size of your parents' thumb. Their eyes open at about 4 weeks of age and soon thereafter they begin to explore outside the nest. Squirrels with bushy tails that are about half the size of adults are old enough to be on their own.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD: If you find a squirrel kit on the ground and its eyes are still sealed shut, it has probably fallen from its nest. If uninjured, have an adult use leather gloves to place the squirrel on a soft, ravel-free cloth in a shallow box at the base of the tree close to where it was found, during daylight hours. If the mother squirrel is nearby she will pick up the kit from the box and bring it back to the nest. Do not leave the young squirrel in the box overnight. If the squirrel is still in the box after a few hours or if nighttime is approaching, it could be truly orphaned. Contact WDNR (1-888-936-7463) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

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Photo: Patrick "Buzz" Hayes
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WM-604 2015



DEER FAWN

Odocoileus virginianus

BORN WILD: Young deer, called "fawns," can be as small as three pounds when first born. They cannot walk well and lack the strength to follow their mother as she feeds. Their spotted coloration, absence of body odor and the ability to lay very still protects them from being detected by other animals. The mother doe stays away for much of the day, often leaving her fawn alone and hidden in vegetation, only returning to it every few hours for feeding.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD: Don't blow my cover! If you find a fawn lying down alone and quiet, you should leave it there and not return to the area. This is natural behavior for a fawn, and they should not be disturbed or kidnapped. If a fawn is in obvious danger, such as in the middle of a road and it is safe to do so, have an adult use gloves to pick up the fawn and move it 50 feet off the road; the mother will find the fawn in the nearby safer location. If you find a fawn and it is sick, injured or truly orphaned, contact WDNR (1-888-936-7463) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

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WM-601 2015



DUCKS AND DUCKLINGS

Anas platyrhynchos

BORN WILD: Mallard duck nests are typically located within walking distance to water and concealed in wetland grasses, but they can also be found in unusual locations. Ducklings are born with their eyes open and a covering of downy feathers, but they depend on their mother for warmth and protection from predators. Ducklings remain in the nest less than 24 hours. As soon as all eggs hatch and ducklings are dry, their mother leads them to nearby water for food and shelter.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD: If the nest is in a dangerous place or you are concerned about the mother getting the ducklings safely to water, you can call a wildlife rehabilitator for advice. Sometimes, a duckling gets temporarily separated from its family. If you see one alone, look and listen for signs of its family nearby. If the family is not nearby or does not accept the duckling within an hour, do not attempt to move the duckling to another family in the wild. Instead, call WDNR (1-888-936-7463) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

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WM-607 2015



RABBIT KITS

Sylvilagus floridanus

BORN WILD: Cottontail "kits" are born with their eyes closed and helpless so they depend completely on their mother for survival. To protect her young, a mother rabbit avoids drawing the attention of predators by only visiting her nest at dawn and dusk for feedings. Kits grow very quickly. When they are about 4 weeks old, they have upward pointed ears, and are 4-5 inches long. They are weaned and completely independent of their mother. Rabbits can have multiple litters each year so rabbit kits may be encountered any time from spring through fall.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD: Rabbits commonly make shallow fur and grass-lined nests in the middle of lawns, by sidewalks and in gardens. If you uncover a nest of cottontail young, cover it back up and place two long blades of grass in a crisscross pattern over the nest. Check the nest the next morning. If the pattern has been disturbed, then the mother has likely been there to feed her babies. If the pattern is undisturbed, contact WDNR (1-888-936-7463) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

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WM-603 2015



GEESE AND GOSLINGS

Branta canadensis

BORN WILD: Canada goose nests are typically located within walking distance to water and concealed in vegetation, but they can also be found quite far from water. Goslings are born with their eyes open and a covering of downy feathers, but they depend on their mother for warmth and protection from predators. Goslings remain in the nest less than 24 hours. As soon as all eggs hatch and nestlings are dry, their mother leads them to nearby water for food and shelter.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD: If the nest is in a dangerous place or you are concerned about the mother getting the goslings safely to water, you can call a wildlife rehabilitator for advice. Sometimes, a gosling gets temporarily separated from its family. If you see one alone, look and listen for signs of its family nearby. If the family is not nearby or does not accept the gosling within an hour, do not attempt to move the gosling to another family in the wild. Instead, contact WDNR (1-888-936-7463) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

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