

# DELICATE BALANCE

CARD STUNT  
MODERATE TO DIFFICULT

## OBJECT

One **Special Places** card magically lifts five native plant and animal cards into the air. When you take away the **Special Places** card, the plants and animals fall to the ground.

## WILDCARDS

5 native plant and animal cards  
1 **Special Places** or **Wisconsin State Forests** card

## DO THE TRICK

Show five native plant and animal cards and explain that state properties are special places in Wisconsin that have been set aside to protect habitat for plants and animals.

Explain that you will show how vital **Special Places** are with a simple card stunt. Claim that you can hold all five plant and animal cards in the air without even touching them. All you will touch is the one **Special Places** card, and that card will be on the top! Offer to allow others to try to accomplish this feat.

When everyone fails (you hope!), you are all set to show off the trick:

- Lay one plant or animal card on the table.
- Bend the **Special Places** card slightly and lay it across the first card.
- Place two plant or animal cards next to the first card and over both short ends of the **Special Places** card.
- Put the last two cards carefully in place by weaving them under the short ends of first card and over the corners of the other two plant or animal cards.
- Grab the **Special Places** card with your thumb and index finger (at the arrows in the diagram) and lift it off the table.
- To show what happens when **Special Places** are lost, gently push down on one edge of the first card you placed. There goes the habitat!

SPECIAL PLACES CARD



Note: Cards come in several thicknesses. Thin cards will not work for this trick! Cards printed on cardstock do work.

**WISCONSIN WILDCARDS**

**NATIVE SPECIES**

**SERIES 1 #10**

**WISCONSIN WILDCARDS**

**WISCONSIN STATE FORESTS**

**WISCONSIN WILDCARDS**

**MATCH YOUR CATCH!**

**WISCONSIN WILDCARDS**

**NATIVE REPTILES**

**WISCONSIN WILDCARDS**

**RARE MAMMALS**

**WISCONSIN WILDCARDS**

**RARE SPECIES**

## TRUMPETER SWAN

*Cygnus buccinator*

**STATUS** Endangered

**BASIC ID** This swan, largest of our native waterfowl, stands four feet tall with a wingspan of seven feet. Adults are pure white with black bills. Cygnets (young swans) are gray with pinkish bills. Listen for a deep and trumpet-like call.

### BREEDING HABITAT & HABITS

Trumpeter swans breed in large, shallow wetlands. They feed on arrowhead, bur-reed, bulrush, sedges, wild rice, pondweeds and other wetland plants. Cygnets hatch in late May or early June. Identification collars help biologists track swan movements and survival. If you see a collared swan, report the letter and number on the collar to your local DNR office.

**CONSERVATION** It is critical that we protect large wetland systems and remind waterfowl hunters of the differences between swans and geese.

**WILD!** Trumpeter swan nests may be six feet or more in diameter. Their eggs measure 4½ inches by 3 inches!

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er)

ER-108b 2005



Photo: Mary Brazeau Brown  
Recycled paper

Extension

## WOOD TURTLE

*Glyptemys insculpta*  
Threatened

### BASIC ID

This 6-9" brown-shelled turtle has sculpted sections resembling tree rings. The bottom is yellow with black blotches. The head is black and the neck and leg skin is yellow or orange.

### HABITS

They eat berries, greens and invertebrates. They live in clean rivers and adjacent forests and meadows.

### FUN FACT

Some wood turtles hunt worms by "worm-stomping." They quickly stomp their front feet, mimicking heavy raindrops hitting the ground. The worms are eaten when they surface.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106Q 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper

## BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST

Managed to provide: places to have fun, resource protection, wildlife habitat and products we need—like paper and wood.

**ORIGIN:** Established in 1957 for land conservation and recreation, the State Forest covers more than 67,000 acres once logged and cleared for farming.

**FOREST CHARACTERISTICS:** See rocky mounds, grassy barrens, wetlands and the scenic Black River. Find managed forests of pine, aspen and oak. View bald eagles, Karner blue butterflies and maybe a wolf!

**ACTIVITIES:** Canoe the Black River, camp, snowmobile, ATV, bike, hike, cross-country ski, ride horseback and hunt.

**UNIQUE FEATURE:** Picturesque Castle Mound may have been an island in Glacial Lake Wisconsin. Hike it!

For information: (715) 284-4103 (Forest Headquarters, Black River Falls)

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/StateForests](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/StateForests)

FR-243 2003



Photo: Tim Beyer  
Recycled paper

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## GRAY WOLF

*Canis lupus*

**BASIC ID:** The largest member of the canine family, the gray wolf stands 28"-34" at the shoulder, weighs in at 50-100 pounds and can be 4 to 6 feet from nose to tail tip. Grizzled gray and brown, black, or nearly white are the main hair colors of Wisconsin gray wolves.

**HABITS:** Wolves are social animals and live in packs or family groups of two to a dozen or more. Wolves eat mainly white-tailed deer, beaver and small mammals.

**HISTORY:** Wolves were once an endangered species, but returned to Wisconsin on their own. They have recovered well. Currently this protected species inhabits the northern and central forests of Wisconsin. Wolves are wild animals and should be treated as such. Do not feed or approach any wild animal.

**WILD!** Wolves can trot for miles and while chasing prey can sprint up to 40 mph!

For information: please see Endangered Resources *Life Tracks* publication, Timber Wolf, ER-500, or call (608) 266-7012.

Timber Wolf Alliance

WM-423 2003



Photo: Stephen J. Lang  
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## AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY

*Lampetra appendix*

**IDENTIFICATION** Blind and wormlike as ammocoetes (pronounced ammo-seat) or larvae, the American brook lamprey metamorphoses (changes) into a brown cylinder, almost 8 inches long. Adults have a dark back, pale belly, yellowish fins and a dark blotch at end of the tail.

**HABITAT** Brook lampreys share the clear headwaters of small, cool streams with suckers and trout. They are sensitive to pollution. Ammocoetes feed on single-celled algae. Adults do not eat, but are eaten by game fish. Unlike the non-native, invasive sea lamprey, adult brook lampreys are not parasites. The male selects a nesting site and excavates a nest in the gravel using its mouth. Two to three dozen adults congregate at these nests and die after spawning.

**WILD!** Its Latin name means, "sucker of stone!"

For more information visit:  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

FH-930rr 2009



Painting: Joe Tomelleri  
Recycled paper



## KARNER BLUE BUTTERFLY

*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*

**BASIC ID** Karner blues are distinguished by orange spots on the edge of the underwing. The male is on the left, the female is on the right.

**HABITS** KBBs feed only on wild lupine growing in prairies and early successional jack pine forests. There are two generations per year. Habitat loss, due to development and farming, caused the Karner blue population to decrease.

**MANAGEMENT** Karner blues are a federally endangered species. The DNR works with private landowners and supports prairie restoration and forestry practices that benefit the butterflies.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Contact your local DNR Service Center.

PUB-FR-218j 2002



Photos: Thomas A. Meyer, WI DNR  
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