

Identity card

Country: Lithuania

Common name: White hare

Scientific name: *Lepus timidus*

Classification: Rabbit family mammal

Habitat: Distributed almost all over Lithuania, but not in all forests. More in the north-east and southeastern Lithuania and in some Western Lithuania's forests. White hares live in shallow coniferous and mixed forests.



Characteristics: Weighs about 3.5 kg. In the summer, the coat is gray. Sliced twice a year. In autumn, in October, the coat becomes white, and in mid-March - the coat is changed to the summer gray. In winter, the animals are cut completely white, only with black ears.

Food: In the summer it eat herbaceous plants, in the winter - shoots, branches and bark of trees and shrubs. Especially fond of trembles, birches.

Reproduction: Get babies 2–4 times a year.

Locomotation: They are mostly settled.

Extinct: ☐

Endangered: ☒

Measures for non extinction: White hare does not have many enemies in Lithuanian forests, sometimes they are attacked by foxes. By 1989, white hare was still hunted in Lithuania, but now it is forbidden.

Curiosities: They are nightmare to farmers, because they like to eat young trees' barks, and then plants die.

Identity card

Country: Lithuania

Common name: Whooper swan

Scientific name: *Cygnus cygnus*

Classification: Species for the *Cygnus* genus.

Characteristics: It is big, at a length of 140–165 cm and a wingspan of 205–275 cm. Weight typically is in the range of 7.4–14 kg, with an average of 9.8–11.4 kg. Among standard measurements, the wing chord is 56.2–63.5 cm, the tarsus is 10.4–13 cm and the bill is 9.2–11.6 cm. It has a more angular head shape. Like their close relatives, whooper swans are vocal birds with a call similar to the trumpeter swan.



Food: It feeds on amphibians, small fish and insects.

Reproduction. Three decades ago, this type of swans in Lithuania was rare, but in recent years their population has grown.

Locomotion: Whooper swans require large areas of water to live in, especially when they are still growing, because their body weight cannot be supported by their legs for extended periods of time. The whooper swan spends much of its time swimming, straining the water for food, or eating plants that grow on the bottom.

Extinct:

☐

Endangered:



Measures for non extinction: is included in the Lithuanian Red Data Book. It is forbidden to feed birds, because then they do not migrate. In Lithuania there are cold winters (up to -30 by celsius), so birds freeze into ice.

Curiosities: The oldest swan was 41 years old, living in Germany.

Identity card

Country: Lithuania

Common name: Black stork

Scientific name: *Ciconia nigra*

Classification: Stork family

Characteristics: The black stork is a shy and wary species. It is seen singly or in pairs, usually in marsh areas, rivers. Measuring on average 95 to 100 cm (37 to 39 in) from beak tip to end of tail with a 145-to-155 cm (57-to-61 in) wingspan, the adult black stork has mainly black plumage, with white underparts, long red legs and a long pointed red beak.



Food: It feeds on amphibians, small fish and insects, generally wading slowly in shallow water stalking its prey.

Reproduction: Breeding pairs usually build nests in large forest trees—most commonly deciduous but also coniferous—which can be seen from long distances.

Locomotion: A widespread, but uncommon, species, it breeds in scattered locations across Europe (predominantly in Spain, and central and eastern parts), and Asia to the Pacific Ocean. It is a long-distance migrant, with European populations wintering in tropical Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asian populations in the Indian subcontinent.

Extinct: ☐

Endangered: ☒

Measures for non extinction: A rare species in Lithuania is included in the Lithuanian Red Data Book. A part of the young is killed in nests, and also part of the adult birds are killed. Due to the old felling of forest, their residential area decreases. This threatens the Black Stork population. It is prohibited to hunt these birds.

Curiosities: <http://www.looduskalender.ee/en/node/9929> open this link and watch live from black stork nest!

Identity card

Country: Lithuania

Common name: Lesser noctule

Scientific name: *Nyctalus leisleri*

Classification: a species of bat

Characteristics: It is a medium-sized bat. It has a length of 48 to 68 mm (head and body) and a wingspan of 260 to 330 mm. The forearm measures 38 to 47 mm and the bat's weight is 11 to 20 grams. The face, ears and wings are dark. The fur is brown, darker at the base than the tip unlike that of the common noctule which is the same colour all along its length. The undersides of the arms are hairy giving it the alternative name "hairy-armed bat". The ears are short and rounded with a mushroom-shaped tragus. The wings are long and narrow.



Food: The bats emerge soon after sunset to feed on flying insects such as moths and beetles. They fly straight and fast with shallow dives, often at treetop level. They sometimes feed around streetlights, catching the insects attracted to them. Comes back to nest from hunting an hour before sunset.

Reproduction: To have babies, females go to colonies, 20 – 40 females in one place.

Locomotion: Winter spends in East Europe, summer comes back to Lithuania. They are true travelers, because they visit almost all Europe.

Extinct: ☐

Endangered: ☒

Measures for non extinction: Written in Lithuania's and World's red books. The biggest harm they feel from fallen trees or buildings where they sleep or have babies.

Curiosities: Usually they hunt two times a night. Right after the dawn and before sunset.

Identity card

Country: Lithuania

Common name: Forest dormouse

Scientific name: Dryomys nitedula

Classification: A species of rodent

Habitat: This species is most likely to be found in dense forests. Forest dormice tend to create their natal nests on top of lower tree branches or in the midst of thick shrubbery. These nests are usually one to seven meters above ground level. They are spherically shaped with a diameter between 150mm to 250mm. Typically these nests only have one entrance and it faces the tree trunk. The outside of the nest is made from leaves and twigs. The inside of the nest has a lining that is created from bark and moss pieces. They want to make sure their young are protected.



Characteristics: Body is 86-120 mm, light brown fur, bottom light. The tail is hollow and darker than the back. Active in the dark and at night.

Food: In the spring eats insects, birds and their eggs, in summer and autumn eats forest berries and oak bark.

Reproduction: Have 3-4 babies in June.

Locomotion: Adults are very settled down, do not move. Live in 1 – 2 ha area.

Extinct: ☐

Endangered: ☒

Measures for non extinction: Forest dormouse in Lithuania have been kept since 1989. Forest felling is dangerous to forest dormouses. It is very important to protect spruce forests. It is necessary to raise the houses in dense fir trees.

Curiosities: They are called the indicator of good ecological balance in the forest, big biological variety, because they live just in those forests.

Identity card

Country: Lithuania

Common name: Otter

Scientific name: Lutra lutra

Classification: Mustelidae

Habitat: Otters usually live in most water, especially in wooded areas.



Characteristics: Otters have long, slim bodies and relatively short limbs. Their most striking anatomical features are the powerful webbed feet used to swim, and their seal-like abilities holding breath underwater. Most have sharp claws on their feet and all except the sea otter have long, muscular tails. The 13 species range in adult size from 0.6 to 1.8 m (2.0 to 5.9 ft) in length and 1 to 45 kg (2.2 to 99.2 lb) in weight. They have very soft, insulated underfur, which is protected by an outer layer of long guard hairs. This traps a layer of air which keeps them dry, warm, and somewhat buoyant under water.

Food: They eat fish, frogs and birds.

Reproduction: At this time 3,000 otters live in Lithuania. The population is stable.

Locomotion: They do not migrate to other areas, but are very protective of their territory. One male takes a big territory for animal this small. About 16km of river. Females live with males.

Extinct:

☐

Endangered:



Measures for non extinction: The wildlife monitoring network reported that otters are at serious risk and have disappeared from parts of their former range. This population is hunted to supply the demand for skins.

Curiosities: Under water, without breathing, they can go up to 400 m, sometimes they reach even 11-14 km/h. speed.

Identity card

Country: LITHUANIA

Common name: EURASIAN LYNX

Scientific name: Lynx lynx

Classification: Predator animal of cat family

Habitat: Lives in bigger forests. Likes mixed forests, calm, with a densely populated area.

Characteristics: The largest cats in Lithuania. Length 80-105 cm, height 60-65 cm. The tail is short, about 25 cm, black tip. Weighs 30 kg and more. Lynx's waist is large but short, long and thick legs, large arches. The fur is dense and mild, light brown with hazel or brownish spots. Ears have long black hair brushes on the tops. The young ones are white, then the color turns brownish-gray, dark brown spots appear.

Food: Likes to hunt mice, moths, birds roe deer, deer, most commonly attacks weaker, fallen beasts. Avoid people.

Reproduction: Heat lasts from January to March. Pregnancy - 50-70 days. The female leads to 2-5 blind babies, after 10-11 days they can see. Kids are monitored for 1-2 years by their mom. Sexually mature in the second year of life.

Locomotion: Do not move to other areas.

Extinct:

☐

Endangered:

☒

Measures for non extinction: The lynx has always been quite rare. About 1970 there were 150-200 lynx in Lithuania, that time they were hunted. From 1979 hunting is forbidden, now the lynx is written in the Red Book. Currently, about 80-100 lynxs live in the north of Lithuania, around town called Biržai, near the Latvian border. Limiting forest felling, hunting with dogs or just visiting is not allowed in the areas where lynxs live.

Curiosities: The largest cats in the Lithuania, but if you see it from far away sometimes you can think that it's a regular cat, not a lynx. They are good at tricking you.

Identity card

Country: LITHUANIA

Common name: BISON

Scientific name: *Bison bonasus*

Classification: Ungulate

Habitat: Bisons mostly are forest animals. Live in deciduous forests with herds.

Characteristics: Bison is the largest current wild beast in Europe. Particularly massive are males. Stem trunk is short, front with high ridge. Large, heavy, soaked, with a broad forehead. Eyes are small. Ears are short, wide, similar to cows, only more hairy. The fur is dense and rough, gray-brown, darker in winter, brighter in the summer. Hair slightly curly. On the top of the neck grows a short bit, after the muzzle - a beard. Due to the large size of the chest and the trunk of the head it looks even more massive, and its appearance is cruel. The tail ends with a longer hair swab.



Food: In the summer eats grass, in the winter - tree bark, shoots.

Reproduction: Although 4-6 years old males are already mature, they can not get married because they are not allowed by older males. The pregnancy lasts for 264 days, approximately 9 months. Usually leads 1 baby. Born male babies weighs average 27.6 kg, while the females about 24 kg.

Locomotion: Do not move to other areas.

Extinct:

☐

Endangered:



Measures for non extinction: At the beginning of 20th century bisons were almost extinct in all world. The first bisons were brought back to Lithuania in 1969, 1971. Then the first babies were born. According to the 2016 data, about 184 bisons lived in Lithuania. Most of them were free and became completely wild beasts. According to the 2017 data, already 214 bisons live in freedom in Lithuania. Also there is a territory in Pašiliai, where scientists successful breed bisons and release to freedom.

Curiosities: You may not know, but bisons are very good swimmers. Even if they look scary, they are not aggressive at all.

Identity card

Country: LITHUANIA

Common name: Ermine

Scientific name: Mustela erminea

Classification: Predator mammal of marten family

Habitat: It is found in wooded, swampy and open areas.



Characteristics: The ermine is a small, flattened animal, with black tip tail. Can be active at any time of the day. Good swimmer. Spends a large part of life in mouse's or dam's caves in which they are resting.

Food: Feeds in rabbits, rodents (mice, rats), other small mammals, as well as birds, their eggs and the young ones. Sometimes they eat fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Reproduction: Around May-June females give birth to 5-12 babies. Only the female cares for the little ones. Young ermines only at 3 months are able to defeat the prey. At that age they become independent.

Locomotion: Do not move to other areas.

Extinct:

☐

Endangered:

☒

Measures for non extinction: Included in Lithuania's red book. It is forbidden to hunt ermines.

Curiosities: In the winter their fur becomes white, but the tail tip do not change and stays black.

Identity card

Country: LITHUANIA

Common name: Swamp turtle

Scientific name: Emys orbicularis

Classification: reptile of swamp
turtles



Habitat: Shallow stagnant or slowly flowing waters - non-drying peat in the foothills, fields where abundant peat or silt, sandy islets, shoals, where it is possible to heat.

Characteristics: Turtles in Lithuania are characterized by dark body color, yellow spots on head and legs. Often, many yellow spots on the front legs form wide stripes. The body of the turtle body is covered by a bone armor.

Food: Eat water and land animals, mostly arthropods.

Reproduction: The eggs are poured into a pit of 10 cm deep in the sand (on land). Eggs develop for 2-3 months. Born babies will only land on the ground next year. Life expectancy in Lithuania is 50-100 years old, and it can be more than 80 years old to reproduce. Males are matured 10 years and females 15-20 years or more.

Locomotion: The turtle is considered to be only a semi-aquatic animal, as it can travel from water up to four kilometers.

Extinct:

☐

Endangered:

☒

Measures for non extinction: The main reason why they are near extinct, is that human takes their place and destroys their home. So there are many programs trying to restore their natural habitat. Also they are included not only in Lithuania's but also in World's red book.

Curiosities: The turtle is depicted in the coin of the Bank of Lithuania of 50 litas (2012), the Seirie Herbe.