

Animals Living In Slovakia

Slovak fauna is mainly represented by **deciduous** forests. There is a great surface and natural variety. The country is home to hundreds of animals with different origins and appearance.

Terrestrial Animals

Forests are home to many animals. The most common are: **squirrel, fox, wild-boar, lynx, wolf and bear**. Deer species are represented in Slovakia by: **red deer, roe deer, fallow deer and mouflon**. Slovak forests offer great conditions for hunting. Bear and deer hunting are quite popular.

Bigger **bird** species are represented for example by **owls, grouses and mousebirds**. Caves, which are frequent in Slovak territory, have several **bat** kinds.

Rare marmots and chamois can be found in the **pine** zone.

Typical animals living in **lowland fields** in southern Slovakia are for example:

peasant



rabbit



and field mouse.

Hedgehogs



can be found in regions between lowlands and mountain ranges.

Animals in Slovakia are divided according to the region with their most frequent occurrence. We distinguish four main regions.

1. Animals Living In Steppe Region

Slovak steppe regions are on lowlands and sunny slopes. These regions house about 10-13% of all animal species living on the Slovak territory. Most common are: **rabbits, field mice, partridges and peasants**. There are many invertebrates in this region, typical are **Dorcadion fulvum** or **Saga pedo**. **Butterflies** are also very widespread through the Slovak territory.



2. Animals Living In Deciduous Forests



Deciduous forests are characteristic by the highest diversity of animal species in the whole Slovak territory. They are home to about 75% of all our animal species. Deciduous forests provide food but also shelter to **roe deer**



wild boar



red fox



wildcat



as well as to many **bird** species. The most common are: common **cuckoo**, **tawny owl**, **carrion crow**, **European robin**, **linnet**,

tit



and
woodpecker



Amphibians are represented by:
newts



European toad



and European tree frog.



3. Animals Living in Coniferous Forests



Coniferous forests provide food and shelter to about 10% of Slovak animals. They are home to several mammal and bird species:

Squirrels



brown bears



Eurasian lynx



**birds –
wood grouse**



ring ouzel



spotted nutcracker, tits, Eurasian bullfinch and common crossbill.

From reptiles there can be found
European adder



and grass snake



Many animals live in both, deciduous as well as coniferous forests. For example: **fox, wolf, deer**, etc.

4. Animals Living In Sub Alpine Regions – In Dwarf Pine And Alpine Meadows Zones

Sub alpine regions house only about 1% of all Slovak animals. Animals living in this zone are not strongly represented, but they are interesting and important.

There can be found: **alpine newt, common lizard.**

Chamois



and marmots



adapted to living in steep, rocky regions. They can be seen at high altitudes.

Aquatic Animals

In Slovakia there are many rivers, water reservoirs and marshlands. They offer great living conditions to **many fish, amphibian and bird kinds**.

Fish breeding in fishponds is quite popular, too. Freshwater fish breeding ponds are for example Trnavské rybníky in the West or **Senné rybníky** situated in **Eastern Slovakia**.

Rivers house

catfish



carp



trout



crayfish



frog and turtle



Many fish live in bigger streams and rivers running through lowlands : **northern pike, zander, catfish, bream**.

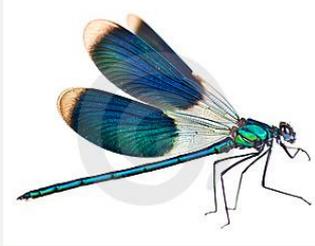
Mountain springs and streams are home to the **yellow bellied toad** and from birds to the **greywagtail** or **the European kingfisher**.

Streams situated at lower altitudes are home to: **Eurasian otter**



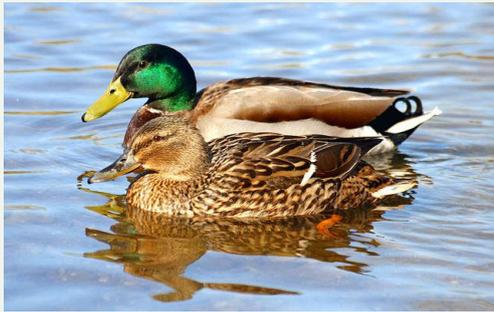
muskrat and grass snake.

Many animal species live in stagnant waters. Water insects are represented by: **water striders as**



Graphoderus bilineatus, or dragonfly

Wild ducks



swans



gulls and storks



are also nestling nearby rivers.

Many water dams are protected areas serving as important ornithological bases. Sĺřava situated on Vĺřh River is one of them. It is home to **cormorant or heron.**

European **pod turtle**



has its biotope in natural reservations nearby the Latorica River in Eastern Slovakia. It is very rare animal specie and it a **unique representative of all thermophilic animals in the Central Europe.**

SOME OF ENDANGERED SPECIES IN SLOVAKIA:

chamois



hedgehog
marmot
salamander



Eastern imperial eagle



European bison



NOWADAYS in EUROPE there are:

42% mammals

15% birds

52% freshwater fish

ENDANGERED !

Natura 2000 is a wide network of protected areas, a programme made by the European Union to protect animals and plants in Europe.

VOCABULARY:

