

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*



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Belted kingfishers are dark blue birds with a dagger-like bill. They have a large head and feathered crest giving them a “messy hair” look. Listen for their rattle calls as they fly overhead. They patrol up and down stream banks looking for food, diving in to catch fish.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*



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Green heron are a stocky bird with yellow legs. They are usually seen near the water's edge hiding and hunting for fish. They are one of the few animals that use tools. They lure in fish using small items such as twigs or insects as bait.

Dragonhunter Dragonfly *Hagenius brevistylus*



Dragonhunter dragonflies are the largest species of clubtail dragonfly in North America. The nymph is about 1.5 inches in length, adult is 2.5-3.5 inches. As the name suggests, the dragonhunter feeds on other dragonflies!

Caddisfly *Neophylax*



Caddisflies are small flying insects. The larvae make their nest out of pebbles held together by silk for protection. Artists have used caddisflies to make jewelry by keeping them in a tank with precious metals as the substrate. The caddisflies pick up the metals and stones thinking they are pebbles.



Valley Flame Crayfish *Cambarus deweesae*



The valley flame crayfish is common in Tennessee streams. The crayfish are about 2-6 inches full grown. The valley flame crayfish is one of over 50 species of crayfish in Tennessee!



Spotted Dusky Salamander *Desmognathus conanti*



The spotted dusky salamander is named after its 6-8 pairs of golden or reddish spots. They are commonly found under logs, rocks, and leaf litter. When in danger, salamanders can drop their tail to make a quick escape. The tail will grow back later!



Longear sunfish *Lepomis meglotis*



The longear sunfish is named for its elongated gill cover making it look like it has a “long ear.” This colorful sunfish can grow to 9.5 inches. The males provide all of the parental care for their young.

Yellow bullhead *Ameiurus natalis*



The yellow bullhead is the most common fish for small streams in Knox County. These catfish can grow to 10 inches. They like to hide in tree roots along the banks. They locate prey by brushing the stream bottom with their barbels.



Scarlet shiner *Lythrurus fasciolaris*



The scarlet shiner is a 2-3 inch schooling fish. It is named for its red fins that the males have during the breeding season. They live in pools and small streams.

Blueside darter *Etheostoma jessiae*



Blueside darters are a small fish, usually 1-2 inches in length. They are found in rocky pools next to riffles in the stream. The males are brightly colored blue during the breeding season.

Largescale stoneroller *Campostoma oligolepis*



Largescale stonerollers feed on algae scraped from rocks with their lower jaw. Stonerollers average 4 inches but can grow up to 10 inches in length.

Pickerelweed *Pontederia cordata*



Pickerelweed is a purple flowered wetland plant with long heart-shaped leaves. Pickerelweed attracts pollinators and dragonflies. It can grow around 3ft tall.



River Oats *Chasmanthium latifolium*



River oats are a drooping grass that grows beside shaded stream banks. The leaves often turn a bright yellow-gold in the fall. The seeds are eaten by small mammals and birds.

Cardinal Flower *Labelia cardinalis*



Cardinal flower are a bright red flower that grows in moist soils along the stream side. It can grow 3-4 feet tall. It's bright flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds.



Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*



Swamp milkweed is a wetland plant that grows 3-5ft tall and has pink showy flowers. Milkweed is a very important plant for monarch butterflies, who will only lay their eggs on milkweed plants.

