

A photograph of an American bison standing in a field of tall, dry grass. The bison is facing the camera, with its head slightly lowered. In the background, there are rolling hills under a clear sky.

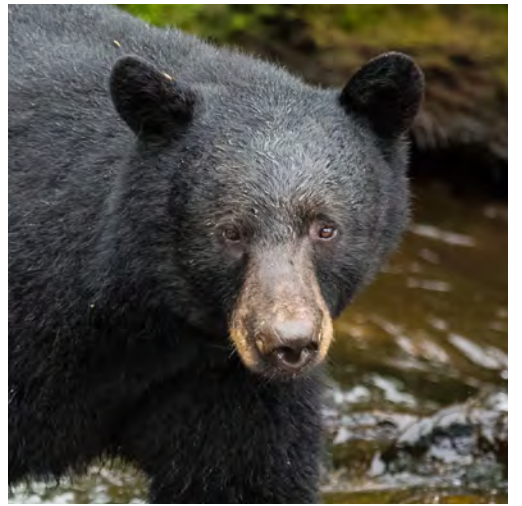
**American**

# **WILDLIFE**

2018 Calendar



Voice of America®





## CHARTER

*President Gerald Ford signed the VOA Charter into law in 1976. It protects the independence and integrity of VOA programming.*

**1. VOA** will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

**2. VOA** will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

**3. VOA** will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.

Dear Friends,

This year, we are taking you on another journey across America. This time to showcase iconic examples of our magnificent American wildlife. From the bald eagle, our national bird and the only eagle unique to North America, to the American bison, recently named national mammal of the U.S., our nation is rich with animals not found anywhere else in the world. Did you know black bears, contrary to their name, come in a number of different colors including dark red, brown, and even tan?

2017 was an outstanding year for VOA. We opened our Silicon Valley bureau on the west coast of the United States, stood up VOA's first investigative journalism unit, opened a new reporting center in Mombasa, Kenya and celebrated our 75th anniversary.

Providing accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information to global audiences is at the heart of Voice of America's mission. Having led VOA for more than a year now, I see daily the dedication and effort of our reporters, our technical staff, our digital team and our senior leaders working together to bring extraordinary journalism to places around the world with little or no access to free press. We hope that you will continue to watch, listen and click on VOA programs in the coming year.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and productive 2018!

Sincerely,

Amanda Bennett, VOA Director

NEWS AND INFORMATION  
IN 47 LANGUAGES

### AFRICA

Afan Oromo  
Amharic  
Bambara  
French  
Hausa  
Kinyarwanda  
Kirundi  
Ndebele  
Portuguese  
Sango  
Shona  
Somali  
Songhai  
Swahili  
Tamachek  
Tigrigna  
Wolof

### EAST ASIA

Burmese  
Cantonese  
Indonesian  
Khmer  
Korean  
Lao  
Mandarin  
Thai  
Tibetan  
Vietnamese

### VOA ENGLISH

#### EURASIA

Albanian  
Armenian  
Bosnian  
Georgian  
Macedonian  
Russian  
Serbian  
Ukrainian

#### LATIN AMERICA

Creole  
Spanish

#### VOA PERSIAN

#### SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

Azerbaijani  
Bangla  
Dari  
Kurdish  
Pashto  
Turkish  
Urdu  
Uzbek

## COYOTE

The coyote is a native species to the North American plains and deserts. They are often dubbed the "Song Dog" after their iconic howls and barks. These animals are an adaptable species. Over the past few years, their population has expanded to a number of different habitats all over the United States--even living comfortably alongside humans in urban areas.



Photo Credit: Ken Canning/iStockphoto

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			





## MULE DEER

Mule deer are named after their big ears that resemble those of mules and are  $\frac{3}{4}$  the size of their heads. These animals are also recognized for their white tails with black tips and their forked antlers. The mule deer is a familiar species in western North America, ranging from the middle of the country to west of the Rocky Mountains.

*Photo Credit: KenCanning/iStockphoto*

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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## RACCOON

The raccoon is recognized by its black facial mask and ringed tail. They are intelligent creatures with dexterous front paws that facilitate their hunt for food. Though originally found in forests, raccoons now live in a number of new habitats all across the country from mountainous areas to marshes to urban areas where they find themselves in the company of humans.

Photo Credit: amadeusamse/iStockphoto

# March

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A black-tailed jackrabbit is shown in profile, facing left. It has large, upright ears and long whiskers. The rabbit is standing on a patch of ground with low-lying green plants and some dry leaves. The background is a blurred green field. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

## BLACK-TAILED JACK RABBIT

The black-tailed jackrabbit is one of six species of jackrabbit, all of which live in central and western North America. Jackrabbits are actually hares, not true rabbits, and because of their large donkey-like ears, were originally called "jackass rabbits." The name was later shortened to "jackrabbit." Also known as the American desert hare, the species is commonly found in deserts and open plains of the western United States and Mexico, where their camouflage coloring blends into their surroundings.

Photo Credit: GizmoPhoto/iStockphoto

# April

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## PRAIRIE DOG

Prairie dogs are rodents commonly found in the grasses and prairies of central and western North America. These animals are appropriately named after their habitat as well as their warning call that resembles a dog's bark. They are quite social creatures, living in colonies of underground burrows connected to each other by extensive tunnels.



*Photo Credit: Blakisu/iStockphoto*

# May

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## OPOSSUM

The opossum, most commonly known as "possum," is the only marsupial found in the United States. The female carries her newborn young in her pouch until they outgrow it, then they climb on her back. They are on their own by five months of age. Although these nocturnal creatures thrive in many different habitats, they prefer wet areas and trees that allow them to stay above the ground.

Photo Credit: stanley45/iStockphoto

# June

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## **BALD EAGLE**

The bald eagle, with its distinctive white head, brown body, and hooked beak, is the national bird of the United States. They are often seen soaring through the sky with their broad wings almost flat as they search for prey. Their population was once in great danger of extinction due to hunting and hazardous chemicals; however, conservation efforts have been successful in saving them.



Photo Credit: Chilkoot/iStockphoto

# July

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## AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

The American alligator, also known as the gator, is a species that has been successfully saved due to conservation efforts. These creatures are most commonly found in the southeastern United States in freshwater habitats where they serve as the top of the food chain. Judging by their prehistoric appearance, the American alligator seems to be ancient; the species is, in fact, more than 150 million years old.

Photo Credit: kevdog818/iStockphoto

# August

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## PRAIRIE CHICKEN

The greater prairie chicken was once found in abundance along the grasslands of central and eastern North America. However, due to habitat loss, this species is at great risk of extinction. These animals are known most famously for their unique mating dance. A group of males gather together with their feathers raised above their heads. They inflate the orange sacs on their throats and stamp their feet while moaning to attract females in the area.



Photo Credit: Frank Hildebrand/iStockphoto

# September

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## BOBCAT

Named for their short, black-tipped tails, bobcats are about twice the size of an average house cat. Although they are found throughout the United States and can adapt to almost any type of environment, they are rarely spotted by humans because they are nocturnal, territorial, and quite solitary creatures. Bobcats mark their territories by leaving their scent and claw marks.



Photo Credit: dssimages/iStockphoto

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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A large American bison stands in a grassy field under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The bison is facing slightly to the right, showing its thick brown fur, dark face, and small horns. The foreground is filled with green and brown grass.

## AMERICAN BISON

The American bison is an icon of the Great Plains, and was recently named the national mammal of the United States. These animals were and still are essential to the lives of some Native Americans tribes and their cultures. Though once in serious danger of extinction due to extensive hunting and disease, the bison population has slowly recovered in national parks and reserves in the U.S.

Photo Credit: Cody Photography/iStockphoto

# November

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## BLACK BEAR

Black bears are the smallest and most common bear species in the United States. Contrary to their name, black bears come in a number of different colors including dark red, brown, and even tan. These omnivorous animals prefer forest habitats where they can roam and forage; however, the need for food often lures them toward human populated areas such as campsites.



Photo Credit: sorincolac/iStockphoto

# December

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## MUSTANGS

Mustangs, which roam public grasslands in the western U.S., are descended from horses brought to the Americas by 16th century Spanish explorers. They are tough, sturdy animals that live in family groups called herds, and are well-adapted to life in the wild. The mustang population is managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which periodically rounds up mustangs and puts them up for adoption in order to preserve the grasslands from overgrazing.



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Photo Credit: Brad Purdy/U.S. Bureau of Land Management