

Discover the species of the Opawskie Mountains



A Yellow azalea
(*Rhododendron luteum*)

- a small poisonous shrub which emits a beautiful fragrance. It grows naturally in the Nature Reserve near Leżajsk.



B European beaver
(*Castor fiber*)

- Europe's largest rodent. His signature structures are the dams and lodges built of branches, stones and silt.



C European siskin
(*Spinus spinus*)

- a sedentary species. Often found near spruces. Its songs resemble the sound of a flute..



D Grey-headed woodpecker
(*Picus canus*)

- his long and sticky tongue allows him pull ants out of anthills. He frequently visits bird-feeders during winter.



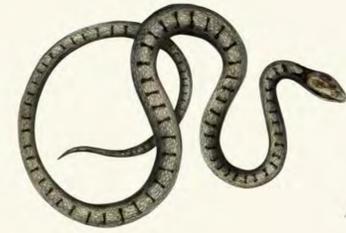
E Great egret
(*Ardea alba*)

- it hunts fish, insects and small mammals during the day. In the past, its feathers were used to decorate women's hats. Now, it is a strictly protected species.



F Common dog-violet
(*Viola riviniana*)

- it resembles the pale wood violet but has larger, blue or violet and blue flowers. It can be found in deciduous forests. Its flowers bloom from April to May.



G Smooth snake
(*Coronella austriaca*)

- a non-venomous snake which lives in hiding among the vegetation. During the day, it often soaks up the sunshine on the sunlit slopes.



H Black stork
(*Ciconia nigra*)

- this bird builds nests on tall trees away from people. It has a wingspan of approx. 190 cm (6.23 ft).



I Siberian iris
(*Iris sibirica*)

- an ornamental plant under strict protection. According to the Polish Red List of endangered species, it is at risk of extinction.



J Red deer
(*Cervus elaphus*)

- an active animal which spends only 80 minutes sleeping a day. The deer's female is called a doe and the male - a hart - can boast of having beautiful antlers.



K Yellow-bellied toad
(*Bombina variegata*)

- it spends its time sleeping in hidden dens or cracks in winter. When spring comes, the mating season begins and the toad makes loud "ribbit" sounds. It has a characteristic, spotted, yellow and orange belly.



L Martagon lily
(*Lilium martagon*)

- the intense fragrance of its flowers and its decorative spots lure pollinators. Highlander art draws inspiration from this plant. You can find certain white-flowered martagon lilies in the region of the Opawskie Mountains. They are under strict protection.



L Weasel
(*Mustela nivalis*)

- the smallest predator in Europe. It is excellent at running, climbing trees and swimming. Birds' eggs are the weasel's favourite treats.



M European mouflon
(*Ovis musimon*)

- also referred to as the "wild sheep" in Poland. It was brought to Lower Silesia in 1901. The male of a mouflon has horns which resemble the shell of a snail.



N Yellow foxglove
(*Digitalis grandiflora*)

- a strongly poisonous plant. Introduced in Poland from Eastern Central Asia.



O Ortolan
(*Ortolan emberiza hortulana*)

- a migratory bird. Its singing inspired Ludwig van Beethoven to create his Symphony No. 5.



P Lesser horseshoe bat
(*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)

- a small bat which gets its bearings by echolocation. It has a horseshoe-shaped pad near the nostrils.



R Carpathian lynx
(*Lynx lynx carpathicus*)

- a nocturnal animal. It has tufts of hair on the tips of its ears which allow better hearing.



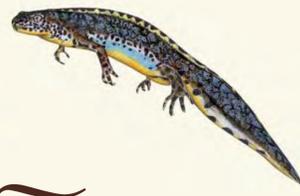
S Fire salamander
(*Salamandra salamandra*)

- the largest tailed amphibian in Europe. It produces venom which protects it from predators' attacks.



S Wood warbler
(*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

- this tiny, skittish bird builds its nest in the groundcover. It spends winters in Africa.



T Alpine newt
(*Triturus alpestris*)

- a tailed amphibian living within the terrestrial ecosystem. At nights, it emerges from hiding to hunt insects, arachnids and shell-less snails.



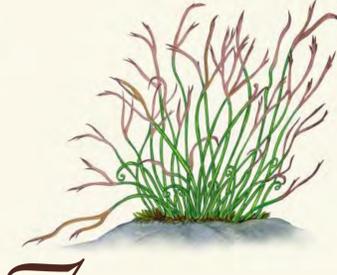
U Long-eared owl
(*Asio otus*)

- in order to protect themselves from freezing weather in winter, long-eared owls form groups of up to 30 individuals.



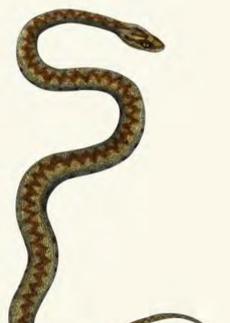
W February daphne
(*Daphne mezereum*)

- this protected plant in strongly and entirely poisonous. The juice it produces can cause blisters and ulcerations.



Z Northern spleenwort
(*Asplenium septentrionale*)

- a small fern with long leaves covered with spores. The plant is resistant to adverse weather conditions.



Z Common European adder
(*Vipera berus*)

- a strictly protected venomous reptile with a zigzag line down the length of its back. Vertical pupils are also one of its distinguishing characteristics.