



GUIDE BOOK

Cryptid Sightings at
Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance

Lead Cryptozoologist

Dr. Gourdon Carver

Start Date:

Junior Cryptozoologist

Strange Things Afoot

In my entire career as a cryptozoologist, I've never seen an area so rich in cryptid signs and sightings as DZCA. Were these elusive creatures mysteriously drawn to this urban refuge? Do they feel a natural harmony with their fellow endangered species? Do they understand that they are not only safe here... but welcome?

I know the truth lies somewhere within this protected ecosystem—and as a scientist, I have made it my mission to find it. I rely on YOU, Junior Cryptozoologist, to help me collect evidence of their existence.

The Truth is Out There,

Dr. Gourdon Carver

Lead Cryptozoologist



AHOOOL

ORIGIN: INDONESIA

SIGHTED: TOYOTA ELEPHANT PASSAGE

LOOK + LISTEN for its glowing red eyes and the dry, leathery flap of its wings.

Height: 3 m

Weight: Unknown

Diet: Carnivorous,
mainly fish
(presumed)



DESCRIPTION: First encountered on the island of Java by naturalist Dr. Ernest Bartels, this fierce bat-gorilla hybrid is named for its chilling vocalization:

ahooooool

ALICANTO

DESCRIPTION: Appearing from afar as a golden glow, this cave bird feeds on gold and silver coins—and is rumored to lead good-hearted miners to treasure.



ORIGIN: CHILE

SIGHTED: TROPICAL DISCOVERY

LOOK + LISTEN for its radiant feathers and the clink of coins in its full belly.



BIGFOOT

ORIGIN: ROCKY MOUNTAINS

SIGHTED: SHEEP MOUNTAIN

LOOK + LISTEN for a looming shape in the shadows and the crunch of leaves underfoot.



DESCRIPTION: At least seven feet tall and completely covered in shaggy fur, this ape-like creature prefers the solitude of mountain forests—but is rumored to be quite friendly!

BOG WITCH

DESCRIPTION: A friend to vultures, snakes, lizards, alligators, frogs, turtles and other misunderstood creatures, the Bog Witch was born in the remote bayous of Louisiana.

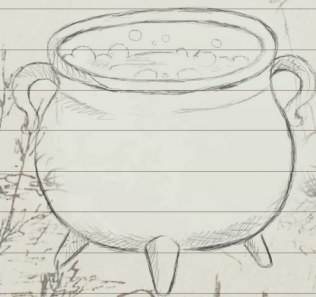


ORIGIN: AMERICAN SOUTH

SIGHTED: AROUND THE DENVER ZOO RAILROAD

LOOK + LISTEN for her hut made from gnarled branches and the bubbling of her cauldron.

Seems to be attracted by the crinkling of candy wrappers.



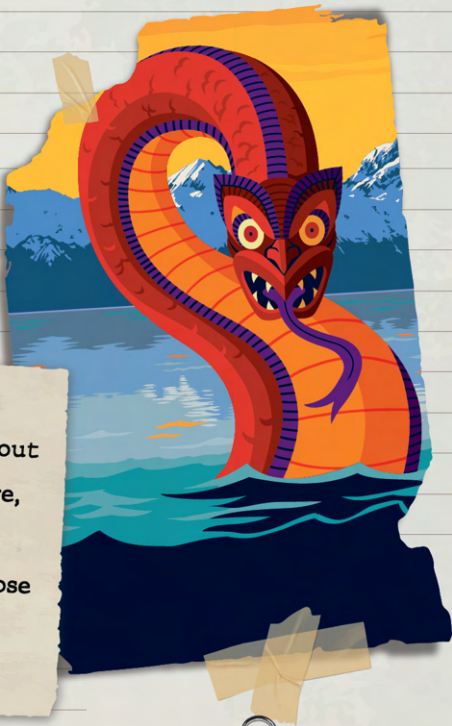
BOITATÁ

ORIGIN: BRAZIL

SIGHTED: TROPICAL DISCOVERY

LOOK + LISTEN for its
glowing multiple eyes and harsh
warning hisssssssssssss.

DESCRIPTION: Revered throughout
Brazil as a protector of nature,
this colossal fire-breathing
snake consumes the eyes of those
who would damage the forest.



DRAGON

ORIGIN: EASTERN EUROPE

SIGHTED: WITH A PARK RANGER

LOOK + LISTEN for the tiny talon clicks
or wisps of smoke floating through the air.



DESCRIPTION: Once fully grown,
this fearsome creature is often
blamed for howling winds,
earthquakes and other
environmental mysteries.

FAERIE

ORIGIN: ENGLAND

SIGHTED: CAROUSEL MEADOWS

LOOK + LISTEN for mushroom faerie rings and Dazzle's soft whinny.



DESCRIPTION: Often spotted with her unicorn, Dazzle, this ethereal creature travels with her steed between realms, spreading magic wherever she goes.



JACKALOPE

ORIGIN: AMERICAN WEST

SIGHTED: ALL AROUND THE ZOO

LOOK + LISTEN for hornless
juvenile jackalopes, visible all
across campus at dusk!



DESCRIPTION: Normally peaceful, this small horned rabbit can become a "bundle of fury" if startled, disemboweling anyone who might try to extract its milk—a powerful elixir.



JOROGUMO

ORIGIN: JAPAN + AMERICAN SOUTH

SIGHTED: TOYOTA ~~ELEPHANT~~ PASSAGE
SPIDER

LOOK + LISTEN for Charlotte's
impressive web and her story of
terrible transformation.



Decorate this mysterious
cryptid here: →

DESCRIPTION: When joro spiders
invaded her hometown of
Savannah, Georgia, Charlotte
suffered a minor bite—and
found she had the ability to
shape-shift into a spider-woman.



KRAKEN



DESCRIPTION: This superstar of maritime lore, dating back to the 1700s, is rumored to be either a giant octopus or squid haunting the seas between Norway and Iceland.

ORIGIN: NORWAY

SIGHTED: STINGRAY COVE

LOOK + LISTEN for fearsome grabbing tentacles and the terrified screams of sailors.

MERMAID



DESCRIPTION: Unlike the sirens, who lured sailors to their deaths, this friendly mermaid is standing by to educate our human guests about her mysterious and misunderstood people.

ORIGIN: WORLDWIDE

SIGHTED: NEAR STINGRAY COVE

LOOK + LISTEN for her pearly seashell throne and the peal of her sonorous Earthly voice.



MONGOLIAN DEATH WORM

ORIGIN: GOBI DESERT, MONGOLIA

SIGHTED: GIRAFFE MEADOW

LOOK + LISTEN for disturbances in the sand, and the shake and rattle of its body.



DESCRIPTION: Known as the Olgoi-Khorkoi in Mongolian, reports of this creature span back hundreds of years! Be careful if you venture out into the sands, and beware its large, dangerous mouth!

Length: 3 ft
Weight: Unknown
Diet: Carnivorous



MOTHMAN

ORIGIN: WEST VIRGINIA

SIGHTED: DENVER ZOO RAILROAD

LOOK + LISTEN for large, red eyes,
rustling trees, and the flap of wings.

Height: 7ft

Weight: Unknown

Diet: Large
mammals



DESCRIPTION: Standing 7 feet tall
with moth-like wings, the appearance
of the Mothman is supposedly an omen
to mark impending disaster—and
rumor is it is only seen at night.



NGĀRARA



ORIGIN: NEW ZEALAND
SIGHTED: DOWN UNDER

LOOK + LISTEN for deep green,
leathery skin, and the rustling of the
brush underfoot.

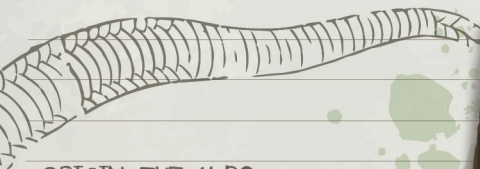
Length: 12 to 13ft
Weight: Unknown
Diet: Small animals
and vegetation

DESCRIPTION: Found across
New Zealand and Australia,
the Ngārara is supposedly
the creature who all lizards
sprang from. It is said they
reside near burial caves to
protect the dead. "Ngārara"
is the Māori word for "reptile".





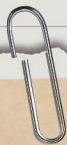
TATZELWURM



ORIGIN: THE ALPS

SIGHTED: WITH A PARK RANGER

LOOK + LISTEN for meows and the occasional hiss, and sunlight reflecting off its iridescent skin.



Decorate this mysterious cryptid here: ➔



DESCRIPTION: Usually found lurking in dark corners, the Tatzelwurm has the front half of a cat and the rear of a serpent - look out for its venomous fangs!



Length: 3 to 5ft
Weight: 20 to 30lbs
Diet: Small rodents and insects



THISTLEROOT



ORIGIN: UNKNOWN

SIGHTED: GIRAFFE MEADOW

LOOK + LISTEN for the
rustling of leaves and vines,
with eyes peeking out at you.

DESCRIPTION: A curious, sentient
plant that can uproot itself and
travel to interact with passerby.
They subsist on clean water,
fresh air and—curiously—both
sunlight and moonlight.

Decorate this mysterious
cryptid here: →





UNICORN

ORIGIN: WORLDWIDE

SIGHTED: CAROUSEL MEADOWS

LOOK + LISTEN for signs like
unicorn poop—the whistle of the
train means you're close!



Decorate this mysterious
cryptid here: ➔



DESCRIPTION: While this horned
creature is a global symbol of
purity and grace, our local
rainbow steed, Dazzle, is
responsible for bringing the
magic of the season.

WEREWOLF

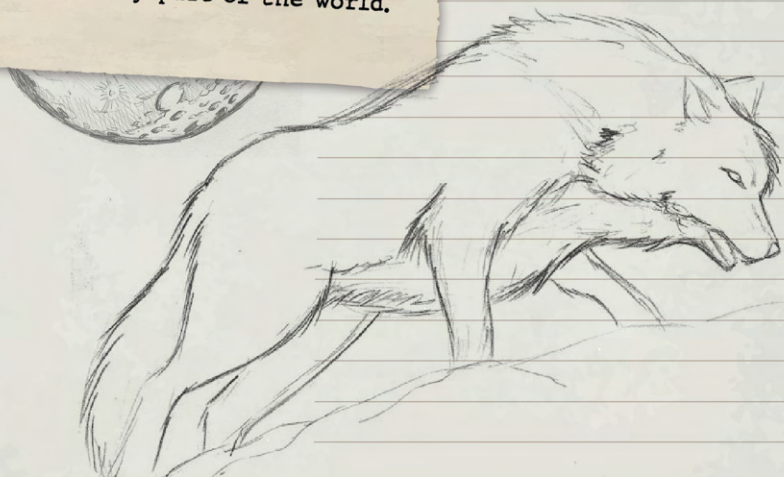
ORIGIN: EUROPE

SIGHTED: HARMONY HILL

LOOK + LISTEN for the glow of
the full moon and the eerie howl
of transformation.



DESCRIPTION: One of the most
ancient and far-ranging
cryptids, this shape-shifting
man-beast has been spotted in
nearly every part of the world.



It's your turn to be the cryptozoologist—
my research ends here, but your imagination
can take it further.

Dr. Gourdon Carver



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