

5 TOES



Northern River Otter
Lontra canadensis
To 52 in. (1.3 m)

Sleek, aquatic mammal has a brown coat and a long tail. Spreading tracks are about 3 in. (8 cm) across and claws are visible. Webbing between the back toes is often evident in mud.



Virginia Opossum
Didelphis virginiana
To 40 in. (1 m)

Gray marsupial has a white face and a naked, rat-like tail. Distinctive, hand-like hind tracks are about 2 in. (5 cm) wide. Front tracks have widely spaced toes.



Common Raccoon
Procyon lotor
To 40 in. (1 m)

Easily distinguished by its black mask and ringed tail. Hind prints are 4 in. (10 cm) long and claws are clearly visible.



Common Muskrat
Ondatra zibethicus
To 2 ft. (60 cm)

Glossy, brown aquatic rodent has a scaly tail that is vertically flattened. Hind track is about 3 in. (8 cm) long and has 5 toes.



American Beaver
Castor canadensis
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)

Stocky, brown aquatic rodent has a flat, paddle-like tail. Hind tracks are about 6 in. (15 cm) long and the webbing between the toes is often visible in mud.



Black Bear
Ursus americanus
To 6 ft. (1.8 m)

Coat is normally black, but cinnamon and blue-gray variants also exist. Foot-like hind print is 6-9 in. (15-23 cm) long. Front print is 4-5 in. (10-13 cm) long.



Grizzly Bear
Ursus arctos
To 7 ft. (2.1 m)

Large, brownish bear has a prominent shoulder hump. Hind print is 10-12 in. (25-30 cm) long. Fore print is 5-7 in. (13-18 cm) long. Tracks have more prominent claw marks than those of the black bear.



ANIMAL SIGNS



Chewed Nuts and Stripped Cones
Hollowed nuts and stripped cones indicate the presence of rodents like squirrels, chipmunks and mice, and birds such as nutcrackers, crossbills and woodpeckers.



Squirrel Midden
A large pile of cone, nut and plant litter found beneath a favorite feeding spot, often at the base of a tree.



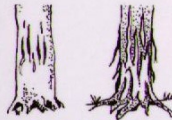
Rabbit Porcupine Deer

Browse
The browsed ends of twigs can indicate who ate them. Rabbits slice off the ends of twigs cleanly at a 45-degree angle. Porcupines leave rows of small bite marks on twig ends. Deer and moose break the ends of twigs and cause the tips to fray.



Porcupine Deer

Barked Trees
Porcupines will chew off large patches of bark on the upper parts of trees. Male deer will often rub the bark off the lower extremities of smaller trees with their antlers.



Scratch Marks on Trees
Bears will claw and bite trees as high as they can reach and often tear the bark off the lower trunk to feed on sap. Bobcats sometimes use trees as 'scratching posts'. Rodents and raccoons leave scratch marks on trees while climbing.



Bird Pellet
Owls, eagles, hawks, ravens and gulls are a few species of birds that commonly regurgitate pellets comprised of undigestible material. The pellets superficially resemble animal scat, but are comprised solely of hair, feathers and bones.



Beaver Lodge
Lodge is constructed primarily of sticks and mud. Size is variable, but is typically over 4 ft. (1.2 m) high and 10 ft. (3 m) in diameter.



Gnawed Trees
Beaver sign.



Squirrel Nest
Round nests of leaves are often located high in the branches of deciduous trees.



Muskrat Lodge
Dome-shaped lodge is constructed of marsh plants and mud. Size is variable, but is typically over 2 ft. (60 cm) high and 3 ft. (90 cm) in diameter.