wildlife signs checklist

Signs of Feeding

- carcasses
- chewed leaves
- drilling dust
- feathers (a lot - plucked)
- fur and bones
- hidden store of nuts, seeds, cones
- holes in trees
- nipped twigs
- opened nut
- pine cone scales
- stripped logs

Homes

- beaver lodge
- bird nest
- dens in ground
- holes in banks
- holes in trees
- matted down vegetation
- muskrat house
- squirrel nest

Tracks & Trails

- deer trails
- slides
- runways
- tunnels in snow

Bounders

- Have long narrow bodies and short legs
- Move like “accordions”
  - first crouch and jump off from hind feet
  - when in air bodies are fully stretched
  - when landing, one front foot arrives before the other then both front feet lift up allowing back feet to land
- All are members of weasel family - least weasel, shorttail weasel, longtail weasel, mink, martin, fisher, otter
How do you know an animal has been in an area? By looking at the signs or clues it leaves behind! Some signs may include: tracks, scat, homes, sounds, and signs of feeding. Oftentimes these signs will tell a story about that animal. Use this “field guide” to discover your own animal stories.

When looking at animal tracks, there are four different movement patterns:
* bounders
* hoppers
* waddlers
* walkers & trotters

**Markings**

- antler rubs
- claw marks on trees
- digging in dirt
- dust baths
- wallows and scrapes on ground

**Sounds**

- bird calls
- frog calls
- mammal
- insect

**Other**

_____________________

**Body Waste & Castoffs**

- bones
- clumps of fur
- feathers
- pellets of undigested bones and hair
- scat
- snake skin
- urine (spray or smell)
- whitewash

**Hoppers**

- Have large hind feet which are longer than front feet
- Jump & leave sets of four tracks with hind feet ahead of front feet
  * first push off with hind feet
  * land on front feet
  * swing back legs to front
- Rodents - mice, red squirrel, grey squirrel (shrews & chipmunks alter patterns more than others) & lagomorphs - hare and cottontail rabbit

**weasel track pattern**
weasel track

*note: actual track will be smaller

squirrel track

**Waddlers**

- Have heavy bodies and short legs
- Waddle slowly on flat feet - smaller front feet
  - move both feet on one side of body
  - move feet one at a time
  - shift weight to move each foot on other side
  - hind leg often oversteps front foot
- Bears, beavers, porcupines, raccoons, opossums, muskrats, skunks and woodchucks

**notes & observation page**

___________________
___________________
___________________
___________________
**Walkers & Trotters**

- Body length from shoulder to rump is about length of legs
- Walk smoothly on their toes - track pattern smooth line
  * move front foot on one side of body
  * then move back foot on other side
  * repeat starting with front foot on opposite
- Trotting gait (cats & dogs)
  * Right front & left rear feet move at same time
  * Switches to left front & right rear
- Cats, dogs, hoofed mammals

---

**squirrel track pattern**

*note: front feet land almost side by side

**coyote track**

*note: coyote track is bigger than fox track

**raccoon scat**

*note: will contain berries, seeds, corn, maybe crayfish parts
raccoon track pattern

coyote scat

*note: similar to fox, but larger

rabbit scat

deer track
raccoon track

*note: front feet land diagonal – usually they are one in front of the other

deer track pattern

rabbit track pattern
rabbit track

*note: generally will be found in a pile, usually uniform in consistency

opossum pattern

coyote & fox track pattern
fox track

*note: uneven and varies in size, may contain berries, seeds, or hair

fox scat

*note: tapered ends and will contain fur and bones (possibly seeds, feathers, berries as well)

opossum scat

*note: uneven and varies in size, may contain berries, seeds, or hair

opossum track

hind foot