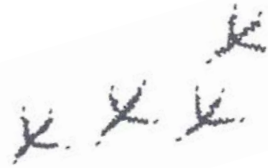


My Animal Signs Field Guide

This field guide belongs to:





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

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



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

weasel track pattern

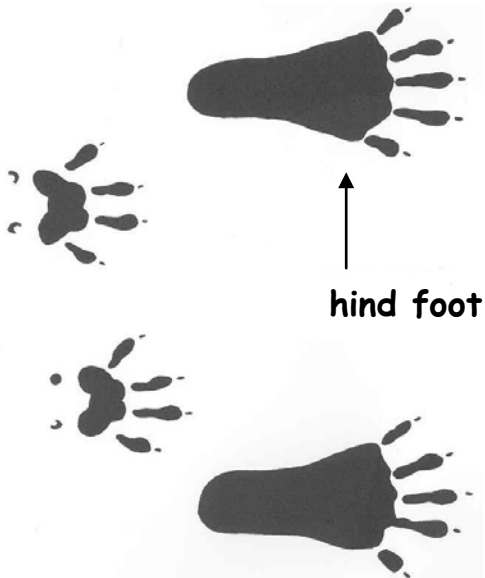


weasel track



*note: actual track will be smaller

squirrel track

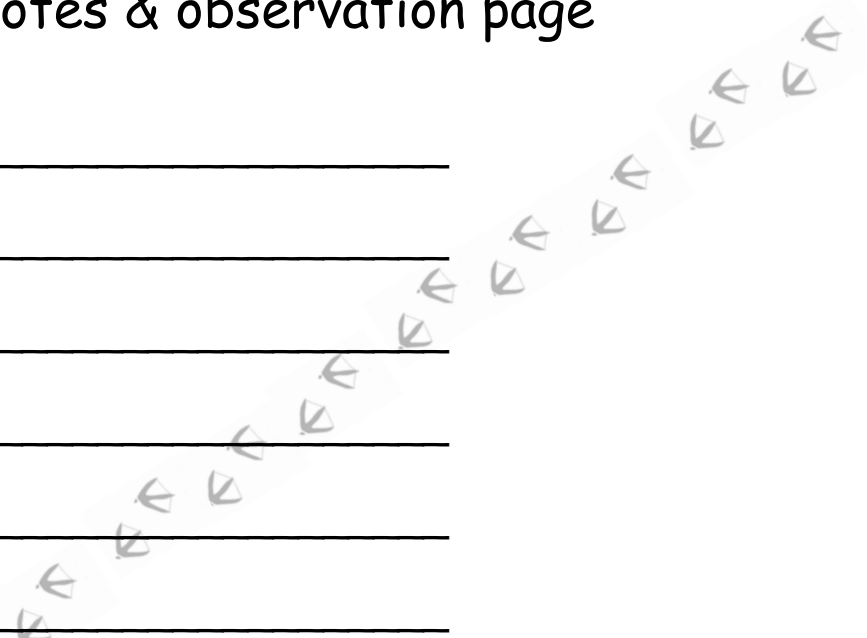


Waddlers

- ❖ 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

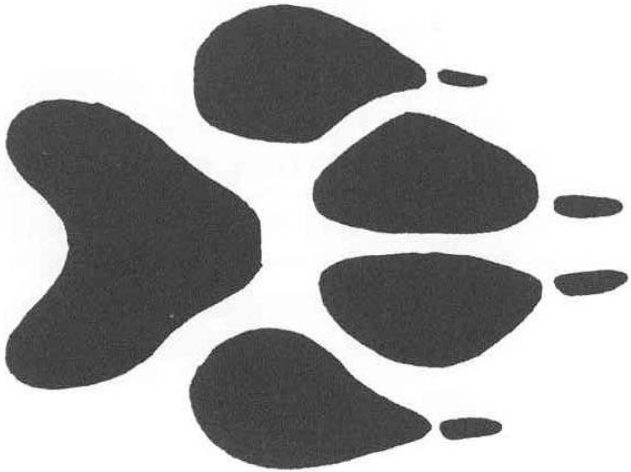


squirrel track pattern



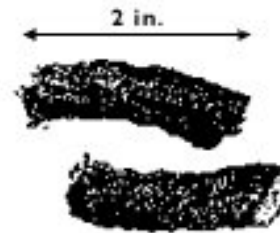
*note: front feet land almost side by side

coyote track



*note: coyote track is bigger than fox track

raccoon scat

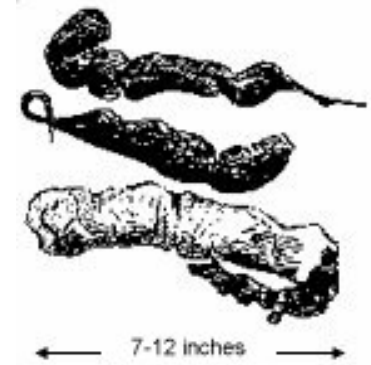


*note: will contain berries, seeds, corn, maybe crayfish parts

raccoon track pattern

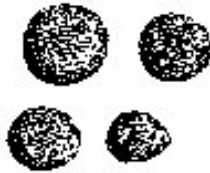


coyote scat

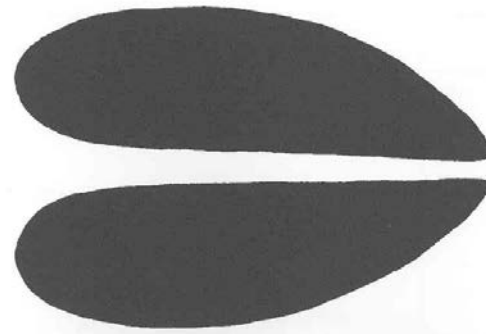


*note: similar to fox, but larger

rabbit scat

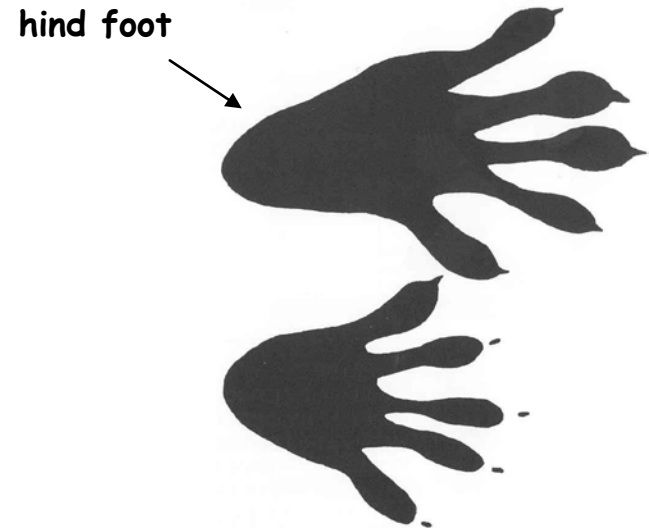


deer track



notes & observation page

raccoon track



deer track pattern

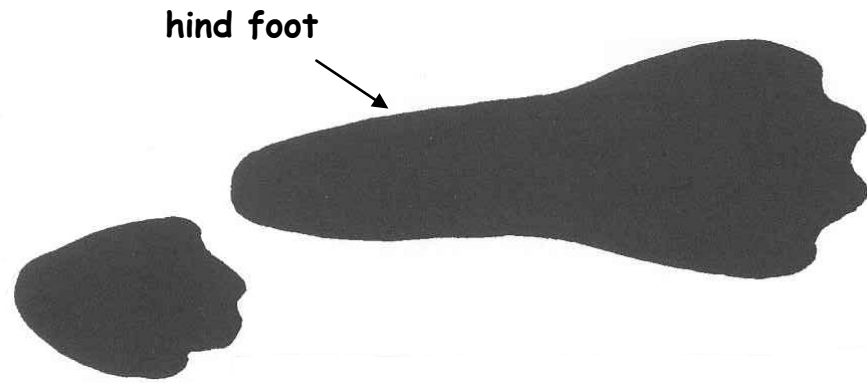


rabbit track pattern



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

rabbit track



deer scat



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

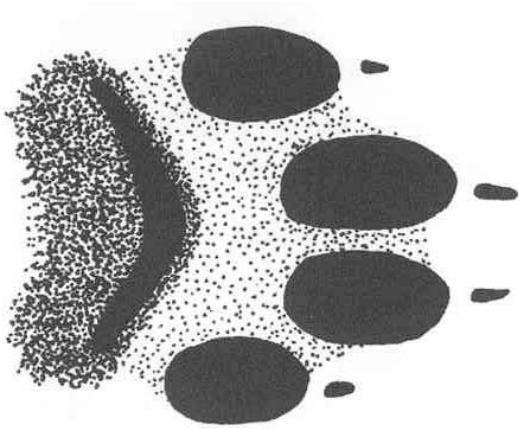
opossum pattern



coyote & fox track pattern



fox track



opossum scat



*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 track

