

More Traces for You to Find



Bird Nest

A Bird's Home

Different bird species build unique nests. Some roost in the cavities of trees, some live in bushes and others build fancy nests. If you were a bird, where would you build your nest, in the hollow of a tree trunk like a woodpecker or in the canopy of a tall tree like the red-tailed hawk?

Diggin' for Food

The large oval holes in this tree were created by pileated woodpeckers in search of carpenter ants and bark beetles. Other types of woodpeckers make different sized and shaped holes. How many trees can you find with traces left on them by woodpeckers?



Woodpecker Holes



Eaten Nut

Yesterday's Lunch

Many animals leave traces of their food choices for us to find. Squirrels and chipmunks leave fragmented nuts and pine cones, while bears flatten thickets of berry bushes in search of the best berries. Can you find something an animal has eaten?

Snake Proof

Finding a snake track is difficult, but occasionally we find other traces of their presence. Snakes shed their old skin as they grow larger. As a snake grows, it forms a new skin under the old one. When the new skin is ready, the snake slithers out of its old skin, leaving the shed behind.



Snake Shed

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Tracks & Traces

Tracking things in nature is fun! Hey TRACK, what kind of footprint is that?

Well KIP, judging by the size and shape of these tracks and scat, I think a raccoon was here last night.



No animal can pass through an area without leaving traces. As you walk down the trail, use this brochure to discover the types of tracks and traces animals leave behind.



WARNING:
Animal scat can contain parasites that are dangerous to humans. If you find scat, DO NOT handle it.

Raccoon

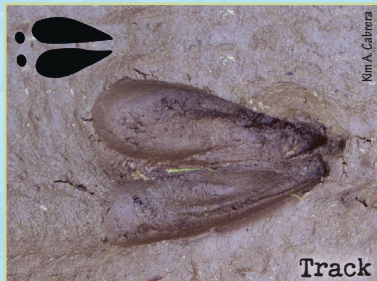
Raccoon tracks have five toes on their front and rear paws and resemble miniature human-baby hand prints.



Because raccoons are **omnivores** (they eat both plants and animals), their scat can vary in size, shape and color. As a rule of thumb, if you can't identify the scat, treat it as raccoon scat and **DO NOT** disturb it.

White-Tailed Deer

Deer tracks are usually the easiest to find because their hard hooves leave better impressions than the soft paws of other animals.



Found in clusters, a deer scat pellet has a dimple on one end and a point on the opposite end. A **deer bed** is a place where a deer likes to rest; look for an oval depression in the ground where leaves or grass are matted down.

Wild Turkey

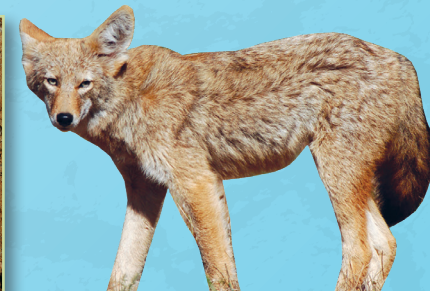
Can you count to three? Wild turkeys can. As male turkeys strut around, they often drag their wing tips on the ground leaving scrapes. Scrapes are also found where turkeys search for food.



Wild turkey scat is usually large and tubular with a slight curve on one end. Because their diets vary throughout the year depending on what foods are available, their scats vary in appearance and sometimes look like formless blobs.

Coyote

Coyote tracks are approximately 2.5 inches long, capped with claw marks and are found in pairs. Their toes are closer together and not as wide as the toes of dog tracks.



Coyotes are **opportunistic eaters**, meaning they'll eat almost anything, so their scat can take many forms. In general coyote scat is long, with a rope-like twist and pointed ends.

Grey Squirrel

Grey squirrel's smaller front paws have four toes while the larger back paws have five toes. Their tracks clearly show claws on the front of the toes.



Squirrels eat the seeds from pine cones, hickory nuts, maple samaras, and acorns, leaving leftovers on the ground. Squirrel scat is shaped like small, dark, oval pellets.

Marsh Rabbit

Marsh rabbit tracks have small front paws with longer hind paws with longer claws. The tracks are smaller than Eastern Cottontails' with an alternating pattern (rather than hopping groups). Their toe spread is wider, to help with swimming.



Marsh rabbits scat is a group of small, dark, and round droppings. They usually sleep in nests of dried grasses on the ground, but occasionally will occupy abandoned burrows of other animals.