

Winter Wildlife: Tracks & Traces

Hilbert Buist
Wintergreen Studios



The magic
of winter!





**Animals
belong
here!**



Why do
we track?

Go on an
adventure!





Becoming
the animal!



What do we look for?

- Front Foot (F: W x L)
- Hind Foot (H: W x L)
- Trail Width (T)
- Stride Length (S)

WADDLERS

- Large body, short legs
- Lift both feet on same side of body before moving other side



Examples: bears, porcupines, raccoons, badgers



WALKERS

- Set front paw down silently, rear foot follows in place of front
- Lift opposite front and back leg at the same time



Examples: cats, dogs, wolves, deer



BOUNDERS

- Long bodies, short legs; accordion, slinky
- Both front feet lift, allowing back feet to take their place



Examples: weasels, ermine, fishers, mink



HOPPERS

- Paired hind paws appear in front of paired front paws



Examples: rabbits, hares, most rodents



WALKERS

- Set front paw down silently, rear foot follows in place of front
- Lift opposite front and back leg at the same time



Examples: cats, dogs, wolves, deer





Domestic Cat

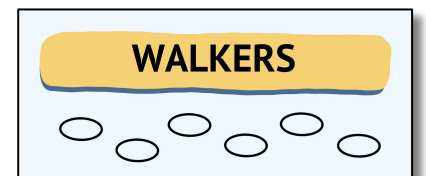
Felis catus

F: 3.5 cm x 3.5 cm

H: 3.3 cm x 3.4 cm

T: 8 cm

S: 24 cm



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Bobcat

Lynx rufus

F: 4.3 cm x 4.3 cm

H: 4 cm x 4.2 cm

T: 9 cm

S: 30 cm

WALKERS





Domestic Dog

Canis familiaris

WALKERS





Coyote

Canis latrans

F: 5 cm x 6 cm

H: 4 cm x 5 cm

T: 10 cm

S: 41 cm

WALKERS





Algonquin Wolf

Canis sp

F: 9 cm x 11 cm

H: 7 cm x 9 cm

T: ? cm

S: ? cm

WALKERS





Red Fox

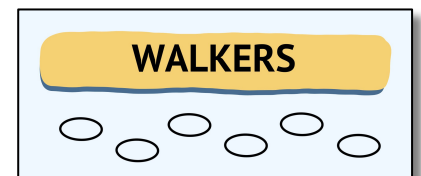
Vulpes vulpes

F: 4.4 cm x 5.1 cm

H: 4 cm x 4.7 cm

T: 8.5 cm

S: 31 cm



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White-Tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus

F: 5 cm x 6.5 cm

H: 4.5 cm x 6.3 cm

T: 15 cm

S: 52.4 cm

WALKERS





Muskrat

Ondatra zibethicus

F: 2.5 cm x 2.7 cm

H: 3 cm x 3.5 cm

T: 9 cm

S: 8 – 13 cm

WALKERS





Birds

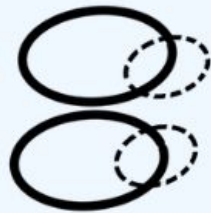
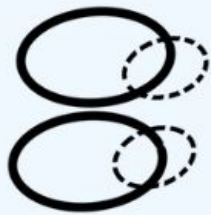
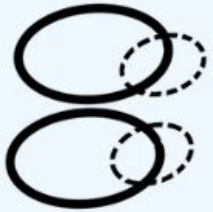
WALKERS

BOUNDERS

- Long bodies, short legs; accordion, slinky
- Both front feet lift, allowing back feet to take their place



Examples: weasels, ermine, fishers, mink



Fisher

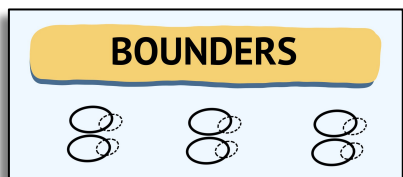
Pekania pennanti

F: 6 cm x 10 cm

H: 8 cm x 6 cm

T: 8 – 14 cm

S: 17 – 35 cm



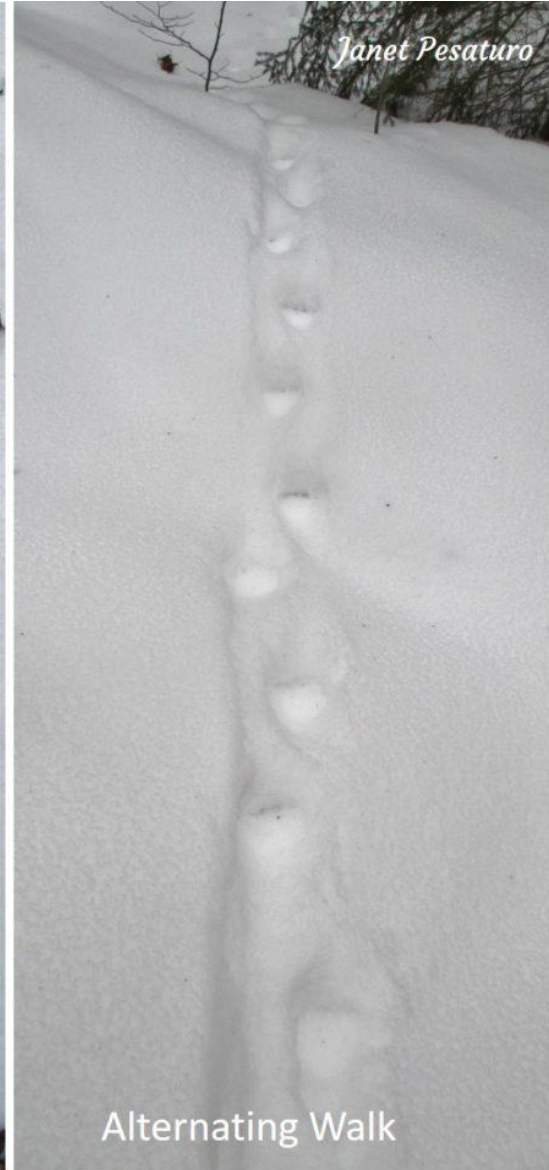
2x2 Lope



Rotary Lope



Transverse Lope



Alternating Walk

Janet Pesaturo

Marten

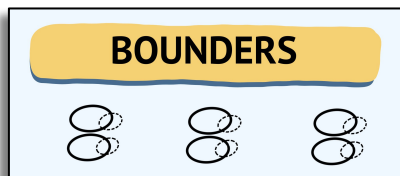
Martes americana

F: 4.4 cm x 4.5 cm

H: 4 cm x 4.1 cm

T: 9.4 cm

S: 58 cm



Janet Pesaturo

Short-tailed Weasel (Stoat, Ermine)

Mustela richardsonii

F: 1.1 cm x 1.1 cm

H: 1.8 cm x 1.8 cm

T: 2 – 4.8 cm

S: 22 – 48 cm



BOUNDERS



Long-tailed Weasel

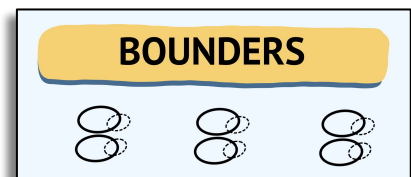
Neogale frenata

F: 1.9 cm x 3.2 cm

H: 3 cm x 4.5 cm

T: 5 – 6 cm

S: 24 – 110 cm



Mink

Neovison vison

F: 3 cm x 3.2 cm

H: 3.4 cm x 3.1 cm

T: 6 cm

S: 23 – 75 cm

BOUNDERS



River Otter

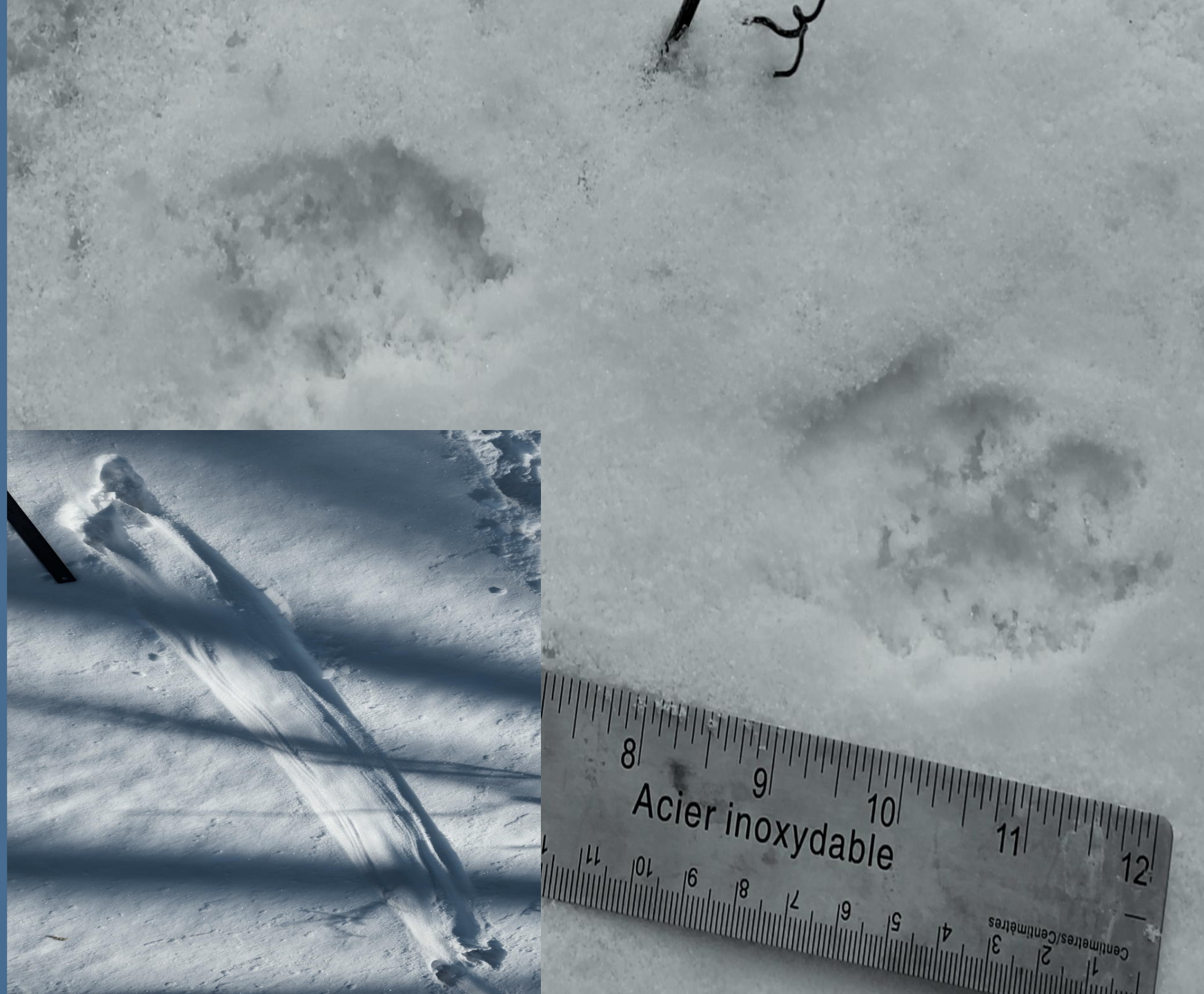
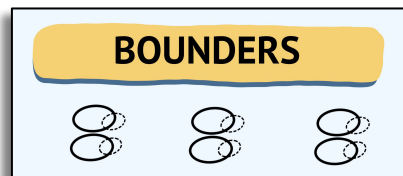
Lontra canadensis

F: 6.3 cm x 6.3 cm

H: 7 cm x 7 cm

T: 12 – 20 cm

S: 38 cm



HOPPERS

- Paired hind paws appear in front of paired front paws



Examples: rabbits, hares, most rodents





Eastern Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis

F: 2.8 cm x 4 cm

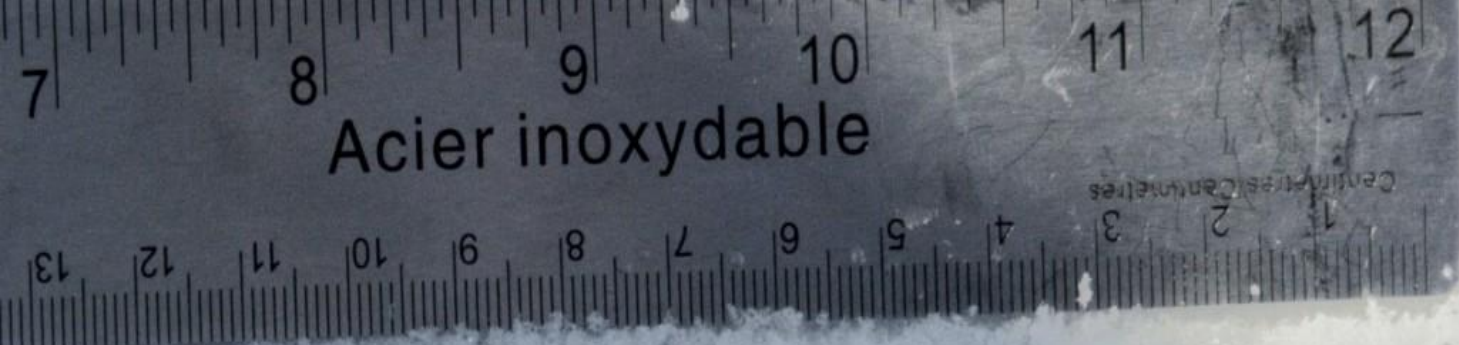
H: 3.4 cm x 4.4 cm

T: 11 cm

S: 15 – 50 cm

HOPPERS





Red Squirrel

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

F: 2 cm x 3 cm

H: 2.8 cm x 4 cm

T: 7.3 – 11 cm

S: 5 – 28 cm

HOPPERS



Deer Mouse

Peromyscus maniculatus

F: 0.8 cm x 1.3 cm

H: 0.8 cm x 1.4 cm

T: 3.49 – 10 cm



HOPPERS





Meadow Vole

Microtus pennsylvanicus

F: 1.1 cm x 1 cm

H: 1.4 cm x 1.4 cm

T: 4.1 cm

S: 6 cm – 10 cm

HOPPERS





Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

Sylvilagus floridanus

F: 2.2 cm x 3.5 cm

H: 2.7 cm x 5.2 cm

T: 9 cm

S: 24 – 48 cm

HOPPERS



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Snowshoe Hare

Lepus americanus

F: 4 cm x 5.6 cm

H: 5.9 cm x 9.8 cm

T: 16 cm

S: 84 cm

HOPPERS



WADDLERS

- Large body, short legs
- Lift both feet on same side of body before moving other side



Examples: bears, porcupines, raccoons, badgers



Porcupine

Erethizon dorsatum

F: 3.7 cm x 5 cm

H: 5 cm x 7.2 cm

T: 13.6 cm

S: 19 cm



WADDLERS



Beaver

Castor canadensis

F: 5 cm x 7.2 cm

H: 9 cm x 14.5 cm

T: 20.3 cm

S: 22 cm

WADDLERS



Raccoon

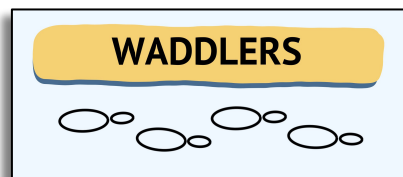
Procyon lotor

F: 5 cm x 6 cm

H: 4.8 cm x 8 cm

T: 11 cm

S: 35 cm



QUIZ!

Identify the animal and its common gait pattern.



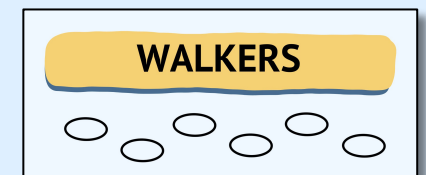
What species is this?
What gait pattern does it use to move?



Eastern Coyote



The coyote is
a walker!



What species is this?
What gait pattern does it use to move?



Mink



The mink is
a bounder!

BOUNDERS



What species is this?
What gait pattern does it use to move?

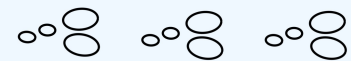


Red Squirrel



The red squirrel
is a hopper!

HOPPERS



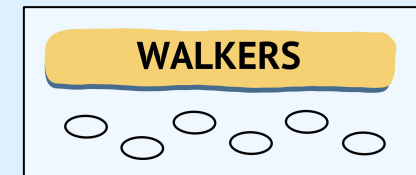
What species is this?
What gait pattern does it use to move?



White-Tailed Deer



The white-tailed deer is a walker!



What species is this?
What gait pattern does it use to move?



River Otter



The river otter is
a bouncer!

BOUNDERS



What species is this?
What gait pattern does it use to move?



Eastern Cottontail Rabbit



The eastern cottontail rabbit is a hopper!

HOPPERS



What species is this?

What gait pattern does it use to move?

Where does the hind foot land in a common walking pace?

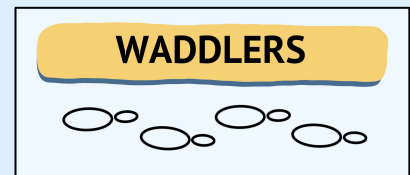


Raccoon



The raccoon
is a waddler!

Its hind foot lands
beside its front!



Many thanks to all!

Wintergreen Studios www.wintergreenstudios.com

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iNaturalist www.inaturalist.org

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Kim Cabrera www.bear-tracker.com



WINTERGREEN
STUDIOS

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