

Some Things to Look or Listen For on our Walk

- Layers of the forest: ground cover or forest floor, shrubs, understory trees, lower canopy trees, canopy. Where is it greenest in early spring?
- A remnant of farm borders - a stone wall, soil higher on one side than the other, even terrain – a sign of plowing
- A field form tree – remaining from pastureland

Nut and seed shells, browse evidence on twigs, and clumps of fur or feathers that indicate an animal has been eating in the area.

A hole in the ground that might be the home of a rodent, reptile or amphibian

Holes in trees that might be animal homes or evidence of a woodpecker searching for insects

- Birds carrying material for nests

Poop from forest animals shows what those animals eat, what kind of animals live in the forest, and returns nutrition to the soil.

- Sounds of woodpecker pecking possibly to establish territory
- Sounds of spring peepers
- Sounds of birds calling (maybe warblers)
- Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles



-  Skunk cabbage



Buds swelling and branches changing color



Amphibian eggs in pool



Footprints from animals in soft or damp ground.



MASS WILDLIFE Pocket Guide to Animal Tracks

Track Pattern	 White-Tailed Deer 2 1/2" - 3"	 Moose 4 1/2" - 5 1/2"
	 Dog: 2 1/4" - 4"	 Coyote H: 2 1/4" F: 2 1/2"
	 Red Fox H: 2" F: 2 1/4"	 Gray Fox H: 1 3/4" F: 1 1/2"
Track Pattern	 Bobcat: 2"	 House Cat: 1 1/8"
	 Otter: 3 1/4"	 Fisher: 2 1/4"
	 Mink: 1 5/8"	 Weasel: 1/2" - 1"

Tracks Not To Scale

Tracks will show considerable variation depending upon conditions of ground (snow, mud, dust, sand, etc.) and movement of animal.

F: Front Track
H: Hind Track
T: Tail marks may be present

Track Pattern	 Raccoon H: 4" F: 2 1/2"	 Striped Skunk H: 1 1/2" F: 1 1/2"
	 Porcupine H: 3" F: 2 1/2"	 Beaver H: 6" T
	 7-9" Black Bear H: 7-9" F: 4 1/2"	 Opossum H: 2" F: 1 3/4" T
Track Pattern	 Woodchuck H: 2 1/4" F: 2"	 Muskrat H: 1 1/2" F: 1"
	 Snowshoe Hare H: 5" F: 1 1/2"	 Cottontail Rabbit H: 4" F: 1"
	 Gray Squirrel H: 2 1/4" F: 1 1/2"	 White-Footed Mouse H: 5/8" F: 1/4"
	 Crow: 2 1/2"	 Turkey: 4"
	 Ruffed Grouse: 2"	

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