

2017 EMERALD COAST REGIONAL ENVIROTHON
TRACKS STUDY GUIDE

Black Bear



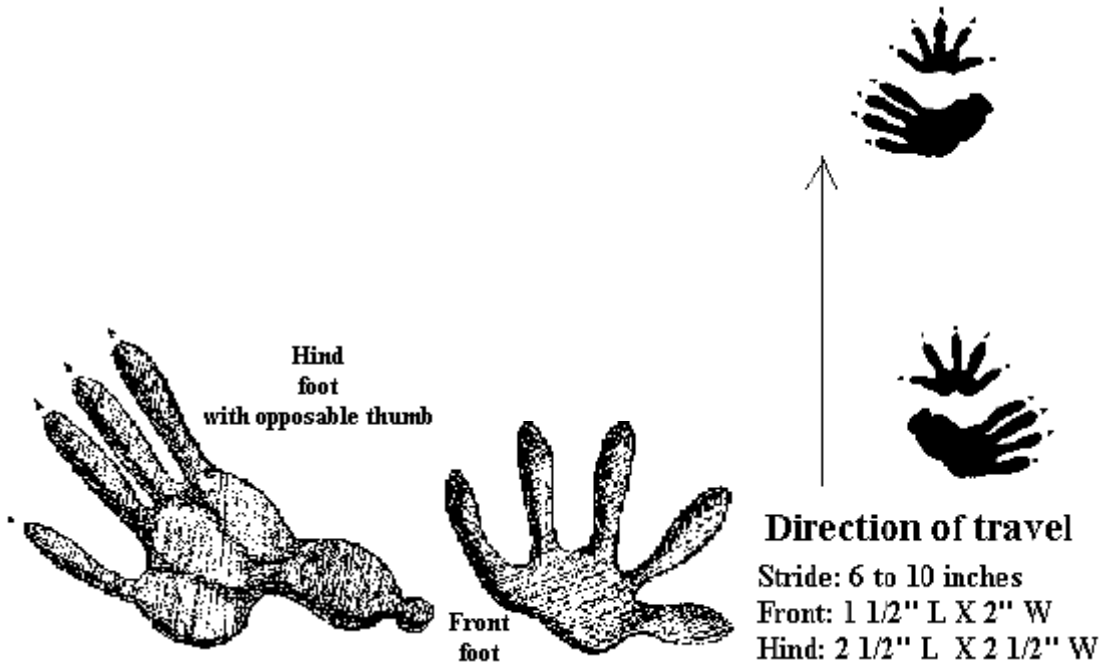
5 in. L X 5 in. W

7 in L X 5 in. W

Black Bear Tracks

Front track on the left. Hind track on the right. Claw marks do not always show.

Virginia Opossum



Raccoon



Hind foot

3 3/4" L x 3 1/2" W



Front foot

3" L x 3" W



Trail Pattern

Trail width: 6"
Stride length: 7"-10"

Coyote



Front foot
2¼" L x 2" W



Hind foot
2½" L x 2¼" W



Trail width: 5"
Stride length: 13"-16"

Trail Pattern

Bobcat



Front foot
2" L x 1 7/8" W



Hind foot
1 7/8" L x 1 3/4" W



Trail width: 5"
Stride length: 10"-13"

Trail Pattern

White-tailed Deer

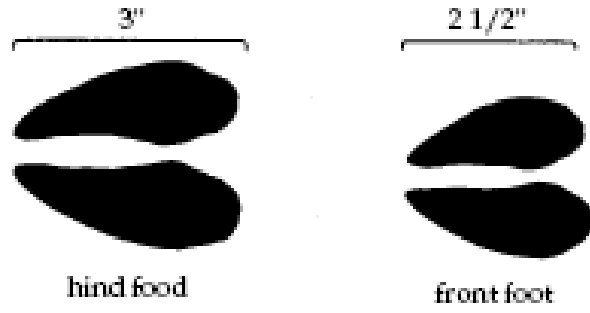
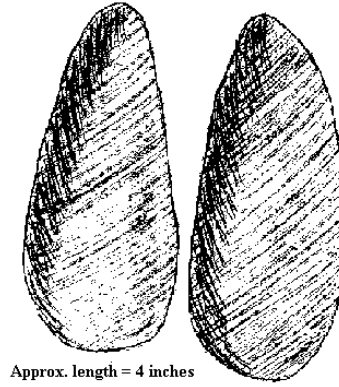
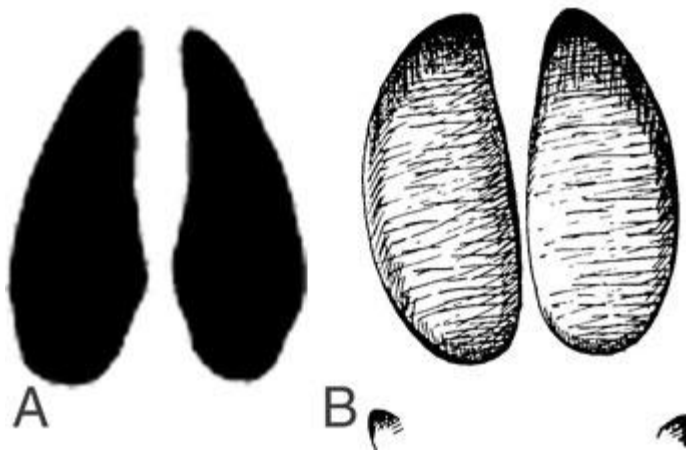


Fig. 5. Deer tracks

Wild Hog



A- White-tailed deer, B- Wild Hog



Panther Tracks

- Just as a human hand has five fingers, a panther's front foot has five toes, but only four register in its track impression: the toe corresponding to the human thumb does not register. Look for four teardrop-shaped toe prints, asymmetrically arranged just like the four fingers on your hand: a leading toe corresponding to your middle finger; and a little toe, which, like your little finger, is *physically smaller* than the other three digits, and is on the *outside* of the paw (Figure 9).
- Depending on the softness or hardness of the ground, the robust fleshy middle pad appears blunt and flat-topped or bi-lobed like an "m." (The middle pad is often mistakenly called "heel pad.") Three relatively even lobes align along the bottom of the middle pad impression, which measures 1 ¾" – 2 ½" The middle pad is the dominant feature of the track – the opposite of all canines, whose middle pad is smaller
- In contrast to the symmetrical tracks of all canids, you cannot draw an "X" through a panther track due to cats' asymmetrical toe arrangement and middle pad's blunt or bi-lobed front edge.
- Typically, claw impressions are not seen in panther tracks. Panthers' retractable claws are kept sheathed within fleshy pockets positioned above the toes. On rare occasions, claw marks will show in a track if the animal is running, jumping or negotiating a slippery surface. They appear in front of the toe impression as tiny sharp holes or slits.



Figure 9. Puma front and rear feet illustrate the features that are characteristic of feline tracks.



Gray Fox



Front foot

1 5/8" L x 1 1/2" W



Hind foot

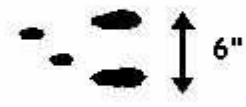
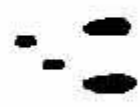
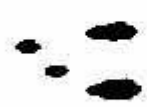
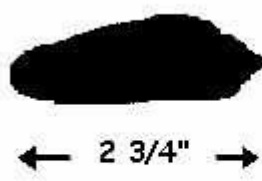
1 3/4" L x 1 1/2" W



Trail width: 4"
Stride length: 8"-12"

Trail Pattern

Cottontail Rabbit Tracks



← 7" to 12 " →

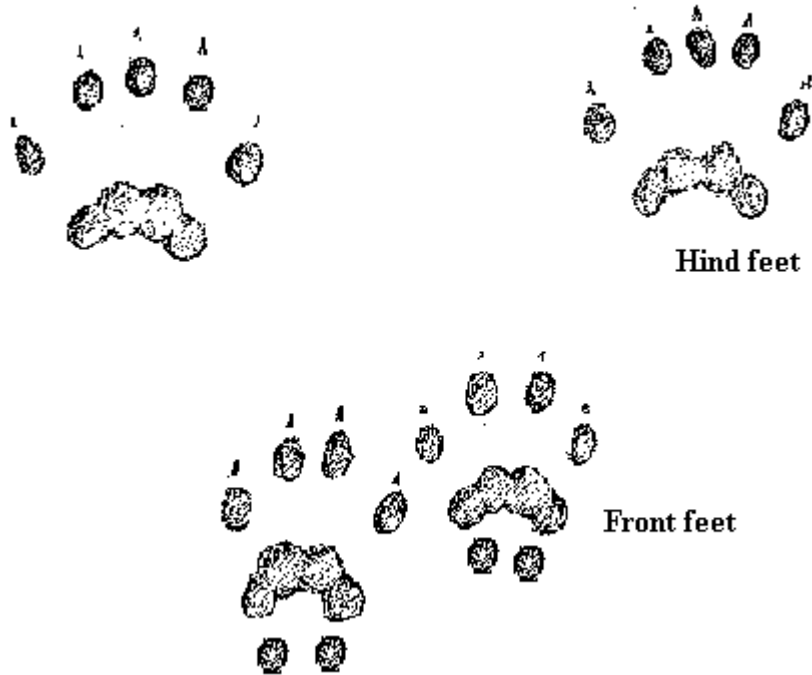
Slow Stride

← 15" to 36" →

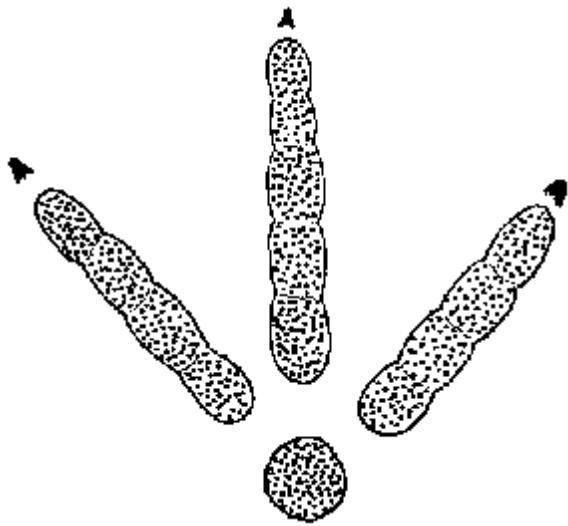
Running Stride



Eastern Gray Squirrel



Wild Turkey



Size: 3.5 to 4.5 inches long
3.75 to 4.25 inches wide



Stride: 8 to 14 in. depending on speed

Striped Skunk



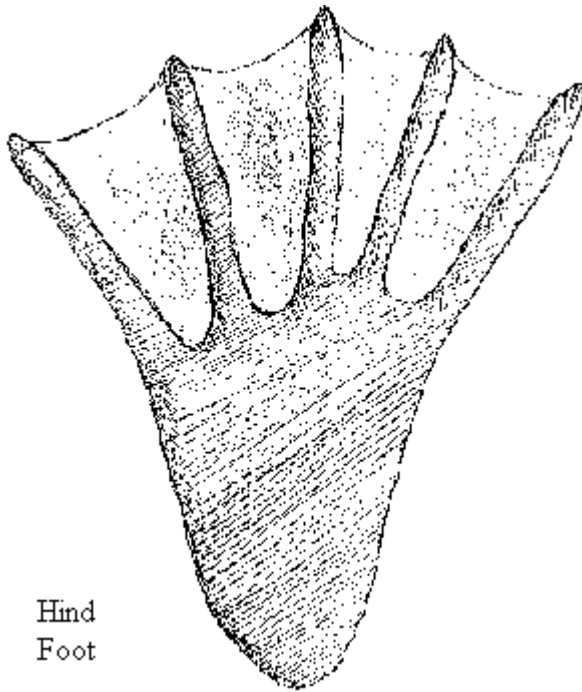
Front Track
.88 – 1.5in. long
75 – 1.2 in. wide



Hind
foot

Hind Track
1 – 1.8 in. long
8 – 1.25 in. wide

Beaver



Hind
Foot

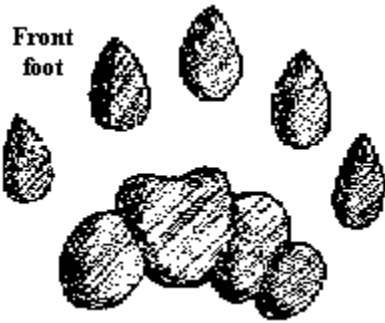
4.75-7 in. long
3.25-5.25 in. wide



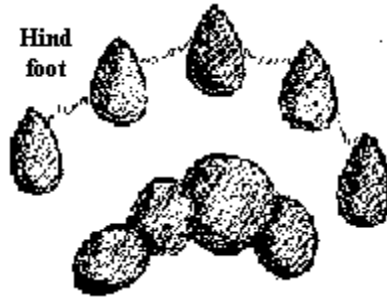
Front
Foot

2.5-3.75 in long
2.25-3.5 in. wide

River Otter



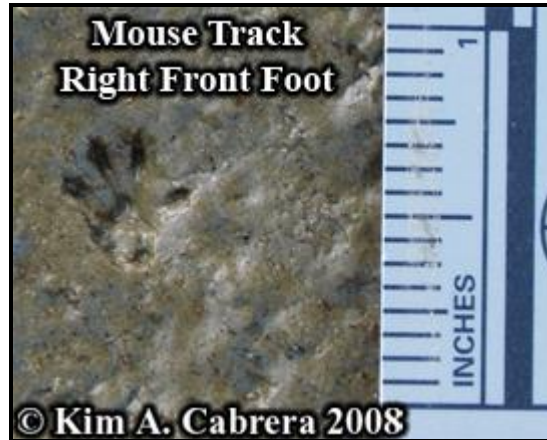
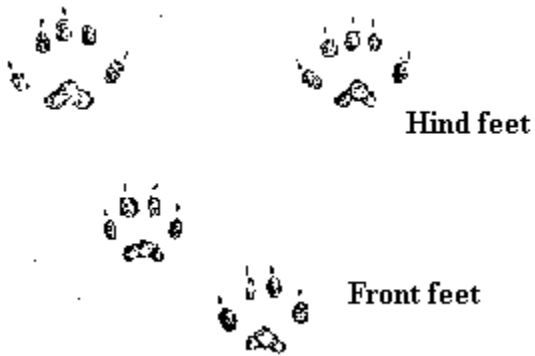
2 – 3.5 in. long
1.8 - 3 in. wide



2.2 - 4 in. long
2.25 - 3 7/8 in. wide



Cotton Mouse



Front Track Size:
.25-.5 in. long
.25-.5 in. wide

Hind Track Size:
.25-9/16 in. long
5/16-.5 in. wide

Nine-banded Armadillo



Front: 1.5 in. – 2 in. long

Back: 2 in. – 3.25 in. long



MassWildlife

Pocket Guide to

MA Animal Tracks

	 White-Tailed Deer 2 1/2" – 3"	 Moose 4 1/2" – 5 1/2"	 Raccoon H: 4" F: 2 1/2"	 Striped Skunk H: 1 1/2" F: 1 1/2"
Track Pattern	 Dog 2 1/4" – 4"	 Coyote H: 2 1/4" F: 2 1/2"	 Porcupine H: 3" F: 2 1/2"	 Beaver H: 6" F: 3" T
	 Red Fox H: 2" F: 2 1/4"	 Gray Fox H: 1 3/4" F: 1 1/2"	 Black Bear H: 7 - 9" F: 4 1/2"	 Opossum H: 2" F: 1 3/4" T
	 Bob Cat 2"	 House Cat 1 1/8"	 Woodchuck H: 2 1/4" F: 2"	 Muskrat H: 1 1/2" F: 1"
Track Pattern	 Otter: 3 1/4"	 Fisher: 2 1/4"	 Showshoe Hare H: 5" F: 1 1/2"	 Cottontail Rabbit H: 4" F: 1"
	 Mink: 1 5/8"	 Weasel: 1/2" – 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"

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

Protect wildlife and its habitat:
Support the Wildlands Fund.

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