Wildlife Watching in Alberta Parks

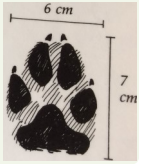
Red-sided Garter Snake

A slender snake that can reach a little over a metre in length. Look for red orange marking from the head back.

These snakes are the most cold tolerant of Alberta reptiles and can range all the way up to the Northwest Territories.

Coyote

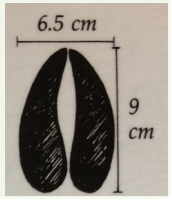
Similar to a medium-sized dog, they are buffy grey to reddish brown with a pointed snout and bushy tail.



Coyotes are found across Alberta and thrive in most habitats including our cities.

Mule Deer

Named for their large mule-like ears they also have a skinny black tipped tail.



Mule deer run by spronking or stotting, bouncing off all four feet at the same time.

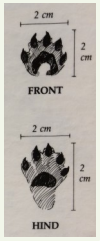
White-tailed Deer

Named for the white underside of their flag -like tail that is raised and waved to signal danger.

White-tails tend to be more secretive and skittish than Mule deer. Tracks are similar, but White-tails run with a graceful gallop.

Long-tailed Weasel

40+ cm. long and slender, half the length can be the black-tipped tail.



This weasel turns white in winter, but keeps the black-tipped tail . It inhabits the southern half of Alberta.

Red Squirrel

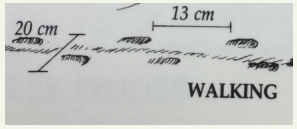
A common chatterbox in coniferous woods. A bushy tail and grey brown colours highlighted with reddish brown.

Active year round they harvest cones and store them for winter.

Porcupine

A stalky rodent known for its defensive coat of 30,000 or so quills it can reach a weight of 12+ Kg.

Contrary to some stories porcupines cannot throw or shoot their quills.



Bobcat

Reaching 50cm. tall and weighing up to 18kg. this is the smallest of our 3 wild cats. The tail is black above, white below.

Cat tracks rarely show claw marks like those of dogs.

Beaver

An icon of the Canadian wilds, our largest rodent weighs in at 30-40 kg. They can be found in most freshwater habitats.

Look for the telltale stumps of trees and shrubs cut down for food and building material.

Do not feed or disturb wildlife. Watch animals from a safe distance.

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