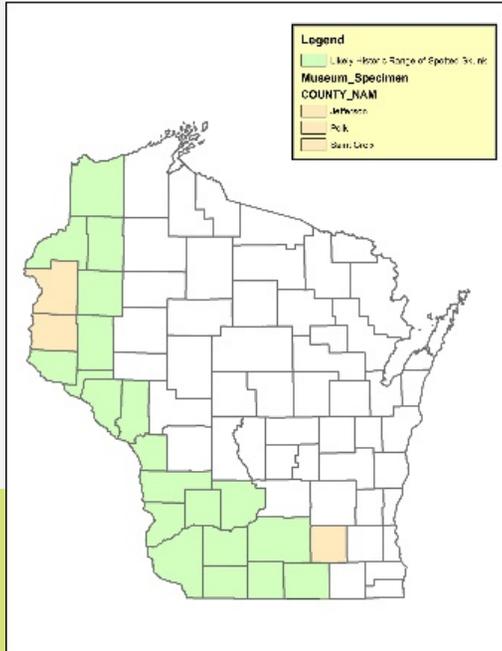


## Historic Range and Distribution in Wisconsin



Historically, the Eastern Spotted Skunk was found in western and southwestern Wisconsin, however, there has not been a confirmed record for at least a decade.



Spotted skunk ©National Park Service

### Natural Heritage Conservation Program

Learn about more rare species in Wisconsin at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword: NHC.

## Additional Species Information

- Eastern Spotted Skunks prefer prairie, brush, and farmland for habitat.
- Though they prefer insects, Eastern Spotted Skunks, just like their striped relatives, are omnivorous and eat both plants and small mammals. They're scavengers and may feed on carrion.
- When threatened, the Eastern Spotted Skunk will stomp its feet and stands on its front legs releasing a foul smelling musk.
- They mate in the winter and have young sometime in the late spring to summer.

### For More Information:

Eastern Spotted Skunk Cooperative Study Group:

<https://easternspottedskunk.weebly.com/>

NatureServe Explorer:

[https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT\\_GLOBAL.2.799633/Spilogale\\_putorius](https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.799633/Spilogale_putorius)

### Questions and Comments

Questions, comments, and concerns can be directed to:

[Richard.Staffen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Richard.Staffen@wisconsin.gov)

[John.White@wisconsin.gov](mailto:John.White@wisconsin.gov)

[Curtis.Twellmann@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Curtis.Twellmann@wisconsin.gov)

## Have you seen me?



Spotted skunk © Robby Heischman

## WANTED: EASTERN SPOTTED SKUNK SIGHTINGS

The Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*) is a small mammal similar to the more well known Striped Skunk that was once common throughout much of the southeastern U.S. into the Great Plains region.

In the last few decades, its populations have declined across much of its historic range.

We need your help to understand this species, its decline and current status in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Department  
of Natural Resources  
101 South Webster St.  
Madison, WI 53707



## Similar Species

Eastern Spotted Skunks may be confused for their larger and much more common relatives the Striped Skunk.

### Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

- Striped Skunks are noticeably larger than the Eastern Spotted Skunk at about 1.5-3 feet long and 4-13 pounds.
- While both Striped Skunks and the Eastern Spotted Skunk have black fur, the Striped Skunk has two distinctive black stripes stretching from head to tail instead of marbled streaking of the Spotted Skunk.
- Striped Skunks have a narrow white stripe down their face and a white tuft of fur on top of their heads.

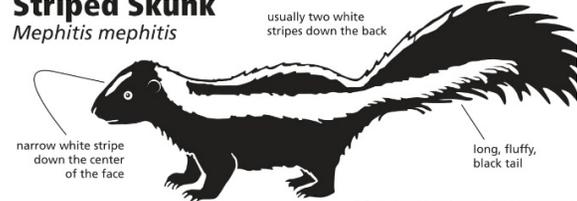
### Eastern Spotted Skunk

*Spilogale putorius*



### Striped Skunk

*Mephitis mephitis*



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## How to Submit Sightings

Have you seen an Eastern Spotted Skunk? Here's how you can report your observations:

<http://wiatri.net/NHI/>



**\*\*Photographic evidence is necessary to confirm the report\*\***

Let us know if you have seen the Eastern Spotted Skunk on trail cams, as road kill, or in person.

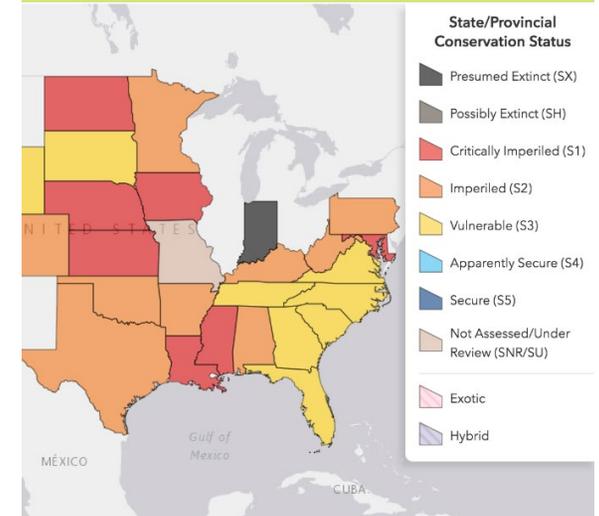
Location and date sighted are appreciated to further our understanding of the current range of this species.

## Eastern Spotted Skunk

### Physical Description

- The Eastern Spotted Skunk is small, about 1-2 feet long and 1-4 pounds.
- They have broken up white streaking or marbling over black fur.
- Their tail is often black or white tipped.
- The Eastern Spotted Skunk has a distinctive white upside down triangle in the center of its forehead.

## Current Distribution of the Eastern Spotted Skunk



(NatureServe 2020)

The Eastern Spotted Skunk may have once been a common aspect of the Eastern U.S., but due to its drastic decline its now a rare sight and imperiled through much of its historic range.



Developed by Mace Drumright, UW-Madison