Flashcard Printing Instructions

[Front of card, upper left corner of **page 1**]

CRITTER

[Back of card, upper right corner of **page 2**]

IDENTIFICATION

We hope you enjoy these wildlife identification flash cards made using Snapshot Wisconsin photos!

Please print sheets both sided for correct formatting, while in PDF form the image should correspond opposite horizontally to the identification on the following page (see example above).

Please report any potential errors to team members at DNRSnapshotWisconsin@wisconsin.gov.

Test your animal identification skills with these *Snapshot Wisconsin* trail camera photos!

Level: advanced

Coyote (we think!)

Canis latrans

Tail is too short to be a fox, fox tails are roughly 3/4th the length of their body and are very full in shape.
Likely this animal is a small coyote.

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Level: advanced

White-tailed deer

Odocoileus virginianus

This photo shows a deer sprinting in the opposite direction of the camera. The body shape, paired with the white from tail flagging, help confirm the ID.

Weasel

Mustela sp.

Weasels turn white during the winter months. Notice the small body shape, and also the black tipped tail.

Coyote

Canis latrans

This photo was captured in Milwaukee county, which rules out wolf. Large body shape and bushy tail point towards coyote.

Raccoon

Procyon lotor

This mysteriously tail-less raccoon appeared multiple times on the same camera. We are unsure if it was born this was, or lost the tail later in life.

Porcupine

Erethizon dorsatum

The round and blurry appearance is common for porcupine under the IR camera flash at night. The sequence also shows the animal is moving slowly—a good porcupine indicator.

Mink

Neovison vison

The elongated body shape points to the mustelid family. Otter and mink are common near water, and this animal appears to be too small to be an otter.

Beaver (we think!)

Castor canadensis

Check out the surrounding trees! This appears to be a beaver getting his winter home ready.

Snowshoe hare

Lepus americanus

Snowshoe hare and weasel are the only Snapshot critters that turn bright white in the winter. This photo is a hare running away from the camera direction.

Black bear

Ursus americanus

The shear size of this animal, paired with the dark coloration and ear shape indicates that it is a black bear getting a little curious about the camera.

Red fox (we think!)

Vulpes vulpes

This animal appears too small for coyote. The puffy tail points toward fox, red fox do not have a dark tip or stripe like gray fox do.

Coyote (pup)

Canis latrans

At first glance, the size may give the impression that this critter is a fox. The absence of the bushy fox tail leads to the identification of young coyote.

Wolves or Coyotes

Canis lupus or Canis latrans

Wolves and coyotes can be extremely difficult to tell apart sometimes. While snouts, ears, and legs are great ways to differentiate the species—sometimes the photos turn out too blurry for a confident identification.
What is your guess?

White-tailed deer

Odocoileus virginianus

This pair of ears belong to a deer bedded down in the grass.

Ruffed grouse

Bonasa umbellus

The plumage of ruffed grouse make them camouflaged in black and white photos. Looking closely, you can make out the small head in comparison to the plump body.

Black bear

Ursus americanus

An odd angle to see of a black, this individual has their snout faces upwards giving the camera a nice sniff it appears.

Gray fox

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Gray fox are actually excellent climbers. This shot is a gray fox scurrying up a tree.

Eastern cottontail

Sylvilagus floridanus

Though the photo is very washed out, this cotton tail can be identified by the size and body shape. In the full series, the individual can be saw hopping across the screen.

Bobcat

Lynx rufus

This shot shows the stubby bobcat tail, which is how bobcats got their name. Tails are generally 4 - 7 inches long with a black tipped end.