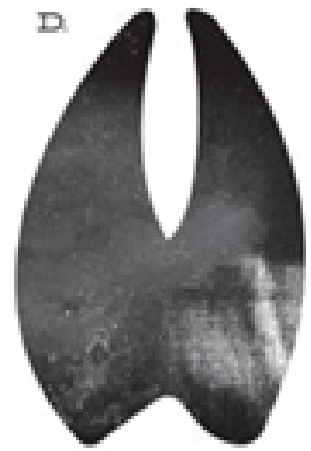


WINTER ANIMAL TRACK STORY

Materials: Track Story printout (attached), Animal Tracks Vol. 1 printout (attached), pen/pencil/marker.

Winter in the Habitat Conservation Area seems quiet compared to the noisy activity of songbirds in the spring/summer months. In the winter, it is a much different kind of busy where animals are struggling for survival. Much of the activity occurs at night, with only tracks being left to tell the story. Tracks give us clues about how an animal behaves, so identifying what left the track is just the beginning. Where is the animal coming from? Where is it going? Was something chasing it? Answering these questions give us a better understanding of how these animals behave during the dark winter nights.

Creating your own Animal Tracking story begins with knowing how different animals move, and who leaves certain tracks. Refer to the attached page that shows you the tracks that a few frequent visitors leave in the Habitat Conservation Area. Once you understand how different animals move, you can begin your Tracking Story. Some questions to ask yourself while starting your story are: What habitat does your story take place in? What kind of interactions do you want the animals to have? Did the animals leave anything behind like food litter, fur, or scat? Have fun and share your track stories with others. Once you are done, go outside and see if you can find any real track stories!



Animal Tracks
VOL. 1

A. Coyote
B. Muskrat

C. White-footed Mouse
D. White-tailed Deer

E. Cottontail Rabbit
F. Beaver

G. Red Fox
H. Weasel

I. Black Bear
J. Crow

TRACK STORY

Create your own track story using at least two species. Try to use proper animal movements in tracks - ie: rabbits move in zig-zag pattern to escape predator