



Keep track of what you discover by placing a check mark in the yellow boxes.

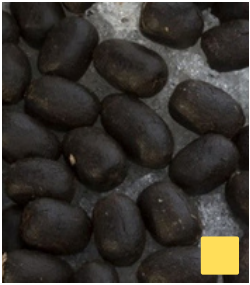


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HIKE & SEEK

What's That Scat?



White-tailed Deer

Herbivores (plant eaters), like deer, leave their scat in piles of pellets. They are usually dark in color, oblong, and a little squished.



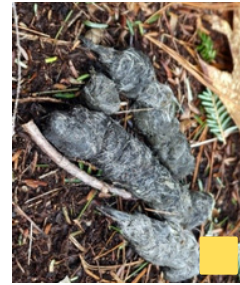
Eastern Cottontail

Rabbits are coprophagists, needing their food to pass through their digestive systems twice in order to absorb all of the nutrients they can. This means rabbits eat their shiny, compacted cecotropes after the first time through and then produce rounder, drier brown pellets.



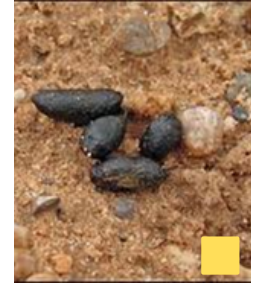
Raccoons

Raccoons are omnivores, eating almost anything. The scat can be furry, seedy, scaly, or full of berries depending on the meal. It's common to find scat on the fallen trees raccoons use as pathways in the forest.



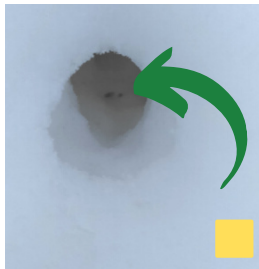
Coyote

If you find medium dog-sized hairy scat, it is likely from a coyote. Being carnivorous (meat eating), they eat their prey fur and all. Sometimes, bits of crunched up bone are visible as well.



Squirrel

Everyone knows that squirrels eat nuts, but they also sometimes consume leaves, mushrooms, insects, bird eggs, tree sap, and even fish. Being small animals, squirrel pellets are small and not easy to spot. Try looking near a bird feeder.



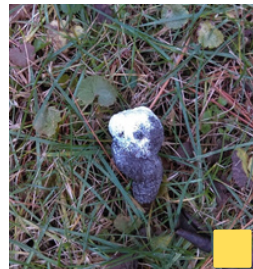
Meadow Vole

If you've ever had a mouse in your house, you know what vole scat looks like. In winter, vole scat can be seen near the openings of their snow tunnels.



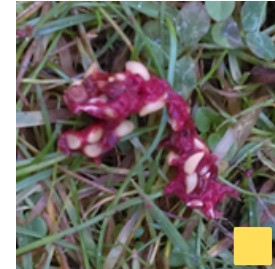
Red Fox

About the size of a small dog's, fox scat has pointed ends and usually appears hairy from the mice, squirrels, and birds it eats. At certain times of year, foxes can also eat plants, berries, and seeds that can change the look of their scat.



Wild Turkey

Like all birds, a turkey has only one opening for its waste. The whiteness commonly associated with bird droppings, is the avian equivalent of urine.



Food Affects Scat

All of these scat pictures show typical examples of each animal's scat, but most can vary greatly depending on the meal eaten by the animal. This photo shows bird scat after a meal of rose hips.