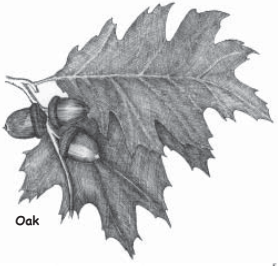




Mammals of Maine



Oak



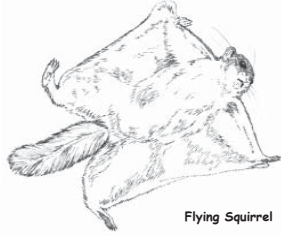
Ermine



Chipmunk



Red Squirrel



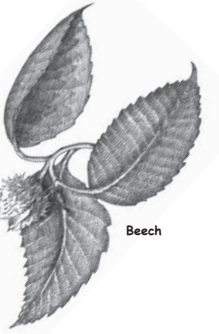
Flying Squirrel



Little Brown Bat



Gray Squirrel



Beech



Fisher



Porcupine



Raccoon



Opossum



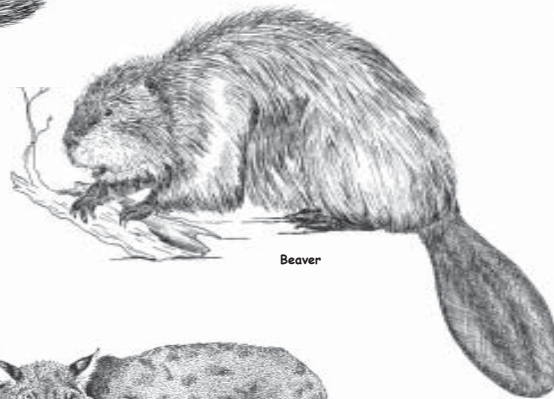
American Marten



Mink



Woodchuck



Beaver



Skunk



Otter



Muskrat



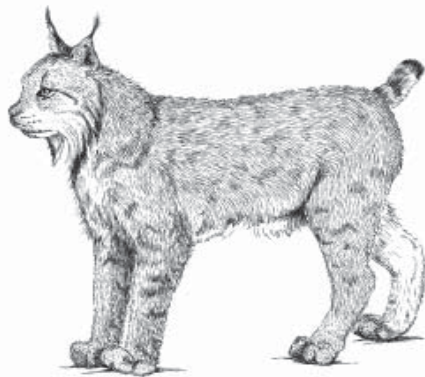
Bobcat



New England Cottontail



Red Fox



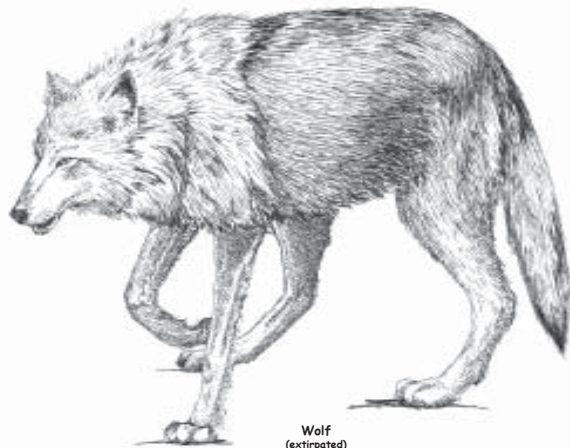
Canada Lynx



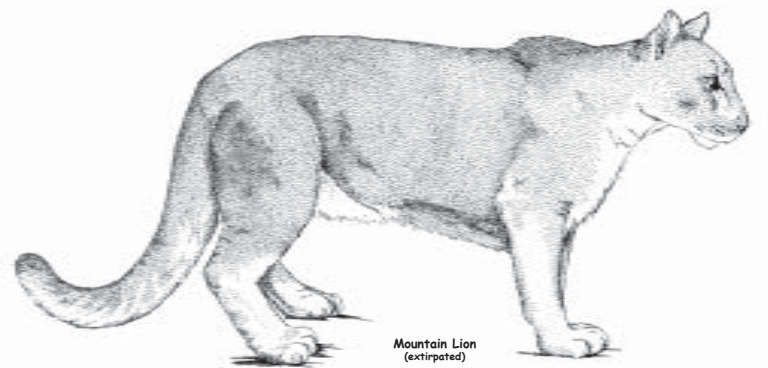
Snowshoe Hare



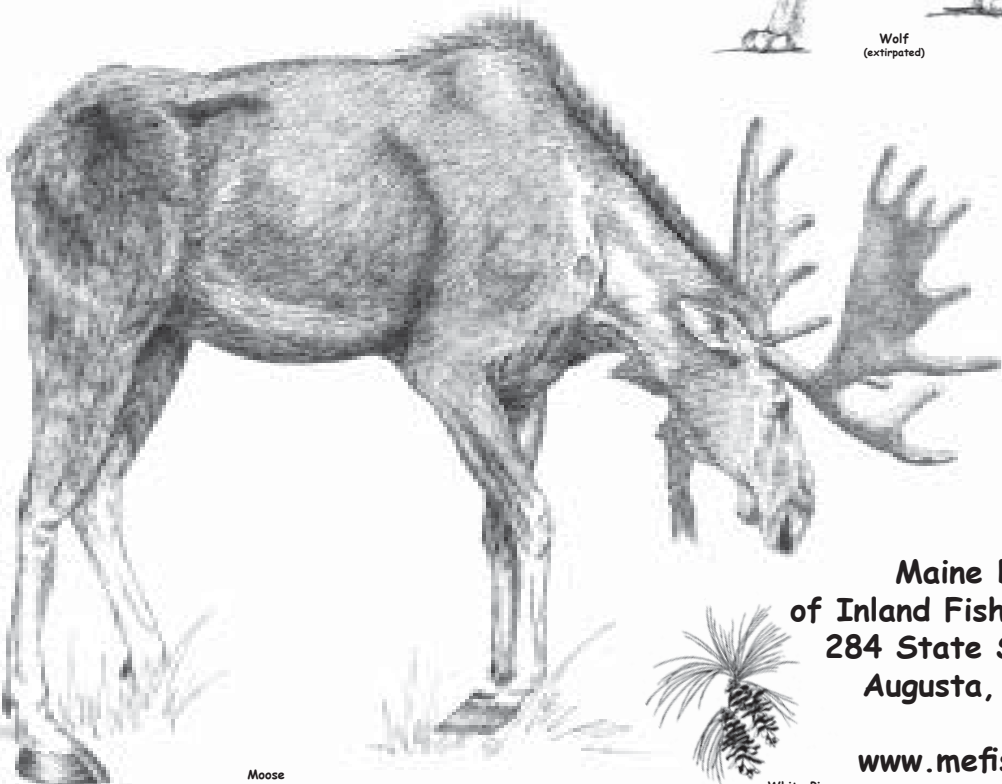
Coyote



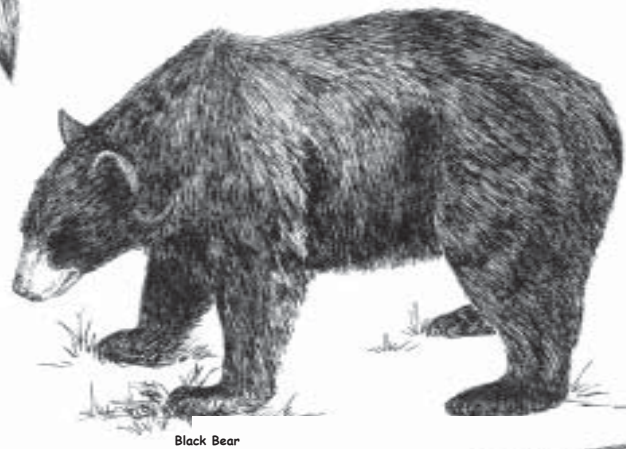
Wolf (extirpated)



Mountain Lion (extirpated)



Moose



Black Bear



White-tailed Deer



White Pine



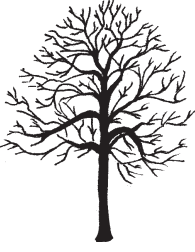
Black Spruce

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
284 State Street, SHS 41
Augusta, Maine 04333

www.mefishwildlife.com

Oak

8 species grow in a variety of habitats statewide
at the top of the wildlife food list
acorns are favorites of deer, bear, squirrels, turkeys, woodducks & small rodents



Mammals of Maine

Red Squirrel

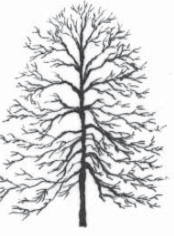
found statewide
feeds heavily on pine seeds
leaves 'middens' or piles of shredded cones on tree stumps or the forest floor
also eats fungi, bird eggs & insects
important prey for fisher, marten & ermines

Gray Squirrel

common in Maine's central & southern habitats
found strictly around mast (nut) producing trees
can have 2 litters a year
smells its way to the nuts it buries; even in winter under a foot of snow

Beech

often found growing in pure stands in moist, rich soils
beechnuts are important fall food for bears, squirrels, raccoons & gamebirds
if the beech mast crop fails for a season, many species of wildlife goes hungry



Ermine

also called the long-tailed weasel
changes pelage from summer brown to winter white
must eat 2/3 of its body weight each day to maintain its metabolic needs
feeds on mice, squirrels, frogs, insects
found statewide in open woods, meadows, suburban areas
uses previously excavated burrows or large brushpiles for denning

Chipmunk

active during the day
eats nuts, berries, mushrooms & even baby birds & eggs
likes open woodlands, backyards
will climb trees
spends most time foraging on the ground
lives underground during winter where food is cached
does not hibernate

Flying Squirrel

found statewide but seldom seen
winter nests in hollow trees & bird houses
visits bird feeders at night
does not 'fly' but glides from tree to tree on large skin flaps that open up from its sides
strictly nocturnal
eats acorns, nuts, seeds; even bird eggs & young

Little Brown Bat

the only mammal that can fly
wingspan of 8-9"
may catch up to 600 moths & thousands of mosquitoes a night
colonizes & roosts in groups in buildings, attics, caves & tree cavities
hibernates or migrates south
very susceptible to rabies

Fisher

one of the few predators of porcupines; also feeds on snowshoe hare & squirrels
arboreal - often found in trees
found in coniferous & mixed forests
dens in hollow trees, logs, or ground holes under large boulders
active throughout winter
breeds in March; delayed implantation
produces 1-6 kits 1 year later

Porcupine

lives throughout Maine
prefers hardwood/hemlock forests
cannot throw its 20,000+ quills but swats attackers with a strong tail and embeds quills into their bodies
gives birth to one pup annually
craves salt & may gnaw on wooden tool handles

Raccoon

name comes from Native American word arakunem
habitats include woods, suburbs, agricultural fields, wetlands
omnivorous; eats anything edible
does not hibernate but during periods of very cold weather may den up & sleep
susceptible to canine distemper & rabies
uses its keen sense of touch to feel for food in streams, under logs, etc.

Opossum

the only marsupial (pouched) animal on the N. American continent
has 50 teeth, more than any other N.A. land mammal; an omnivore, it eats fruits, worms, insects, eggs, & anything edible
recently expanded its range northward to include Maine; been reported to north central part of the state
when cornered, falls into a deathlike state (playing 'possum')

Mink

lives statewide in wetland habitats along streams, ponds & rivers
eats fish, frogs, ducks, mice, freshwater mussels & insects
mainly nocturnal
look for the characteristic white chin & slim dark brown body
active year-round
an important furbearer in Maine

Woodchuck

a true hibernator; body temperature drops from 97 to less than 40 degrees for up to 6 months
digs burrows up to 5' wide and 30' long
eats clover, dandelions, fruits, garden vegetables
active mornings & late afternoon
abandoned burrows provide denning sites for opossums, raccoons, foxes & skunks
gives a sharp whistle as an alarm call

Beaver

the only animal that can alter habitats; (by damming rivers & streams)
eats bark, twigs, buds, inner cambium
builds 'lodges' of sticks & mud in which families spend the winter months
may build homes in river or lake banks
important furbearer in Maine; but becoming a nuisance animal when its dam work floods woodlots, roads & fields
historically & economically important as early trappers explored Maine territory

Striped Skunk

found throughout Maine in suburbs, open woodlands & agricultural fields
an omnivore, skunks eat insects, berries, fruits, birds' eggs, nuts, corn and more
skunk musk is composed of butylmercaptan, a sulfur-alcohol compound secreted by the anal glands in a mist or droplet stream
bold stripes advertise 'do not disturb'
a routine prey item for great horned owls

American Marten

commonly called the 'pine marten'
found in a variety of mixed forest habitats in northern Maine
eats voles, moles, red squirrels, birds & fruits, nuts, berries
important Maine furbearer
prefers to den in tree cavities
breeds late June-Sept. with 7-8 months of delayed implantation; young born mid March-April

Muskrat

found statewide in wetlands with dense emergent vegetation
eats cattails, reeds, rushes & pond-weeds; some mussels, insects, crayfish
builds small lodges out of aquatic plants
active year-round
important furbearer in Maine
stays under water for up to 15 minutes
creates a 'V' shaped wave as it swims

Snowshoe Hare

lives in open woodlands with dense shrubby cover statewide
eats clover, grasses, twigs, buds & bark
changes pelage from summer brown to winter white
most important prey for lynx
very large feet allow it to move freely on top of snow pack
can leap up to 12 feet in a single bound & reach speeds of up to 30mph

New England Cottontail

at the northern limit of its range in southern Maine; uncommon to rare here
lives in brushy, scrubby habitat like abandoned farmland which is becoming quite rare in southern Maine
eats clover, grasses, twigs, buds, & bark
distinguished from Eastern Cottontail by shorter ears with a black line on the edges, smaller body, & a black spot between ears

Otter

the most aquatic member of the weasel family; lives in/along rivers, streams, ponds & lakes
eats fish, frogs, crayfish, mussels, turtles & even young beavers
highly mobile 'circuit riders'; maintain a circular travel route over 20 miles
otter 'slides' on grass, mud or snow are signatures of its fun-loving nature
an important Maine furbearer

Canada Lynx

long an uncommon carnivore in northern & western Maine
prominent ear tufts, longer legs, larger paws & tawny-grey fur distinguish it from a bobcat
principle food is snowshoe hare
Maine, Washington & Montana only states in lower 48 with lynx populations
listed as a federally threatened species
protected from hunting/trapping

Bobcat

likes brushy, rocky woodlands interspersed with old roads & clearings
takes rabbits, squirrels, birds & deer for food
can swim well but would rather not
nocturnal; but in winter active during daytime, too
a limited annual hunting & trapping season
an important Maine furbearer

Mountain Lion

considered extirpated in Maine although hundreds of sightings have been reported
some tracks here have been verified
no known breeding population
called catamount, puma, cougar, painter
preys on beaver, deer, moose, small mammals; caches larger prey
preferred habitats are wooded swamps, riparian areas, mountain forests
protected by state/federal law

Red Fox

found statewide
likes open woods & farm lands but has adapted to city life, too
may avoid areas with established coyote populations
eats fruits, berries, small mammals, birds & carrion
may use abandoned woodchuck burrows to den
an important Maine furbearer

Coyote

roams statewide in habitats from deep woods to city streets
will eat anything edible
keeps its tail down as it runs
at dawn & dusk barks, yelps, yaps and howls
stalks prey by freezing its position & then pouncing
responds to hunting pressure by having larger litters of pups

Wolf

extirpated from Maine since the early 1900s; recent occurrences here in 1993 & 1996; completely protected by law
nearest wolf population in Quebec only 75 miles from the Maine state border
IFW conducts winter wolf snow track surveys; & has conducted howling surveys with limited response from coyotes only
runs with its tail horizontal to its body
long legs also distinguish from coyotes

Black Bear

one of our most important game animals
lives in forest landscapes interspersed with clearings, wetlands & regenerating stands
are not true hibernators, but go through 'carnivore lethargy'; den up for up to 6 months/yr but can easily be awakened
classified as carnivores, yet larger part of diet is insects, fruits, grasses, beechnuts, acorns & hazelnuts
1-3 cubs born Jan.-Feb. every other year

White Pine

is the Maine state tree & flower
found statewide
valuable for wildlife cover, nesting & roosting
cones/seeds provide food for squirrels, crossbills, spruce grouse, porcupines & more
preferred nest tree of the bald eagle



Moose

largest North American land mammal
found throughout Maine; expanding its range south
found near water in summer foraging on aquatic plants; vegetation in regenerating clearcuts & wet meadows
in response to the increased moose population, the hunting season has lengthened & number of permits increased

White-tailed Deer

a Maine population of over 300,000; about 10-15% harvested each year
our deer herd has increased since the 1960s by protecting important wintering areas & implementing a variety of hunting opportunities
adaptable to many habitats from deep woods & farmland to suburbs & backyards
most plentiful game animal in eastern North America

Black Spruce

prefers wet soils & bogs
are found statewide
cones, needles & twigs provide food for spruce grouse, squirrels, chipmunks, deer & rabbits
nesting, roosting & winter cover for many birds
dense stands may provide winter cover for deer & moose

