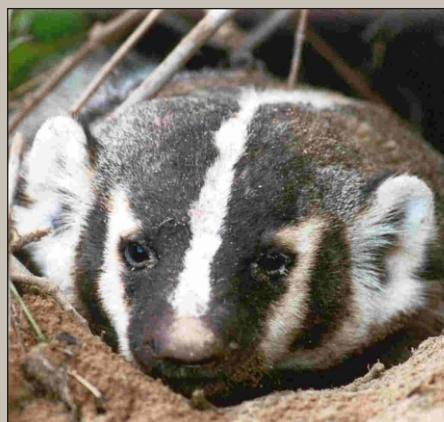


MAMMALS COMMONLY MISTAKEN AS AMERICAN BADGER

This photo identification guide includes pictures of American Badger and four other mammal species in Ontario that people sometimes mistakenly identify as American Badger. The mammals most commonly confused with badger in Ontario include Virginia Opossum, Common Raccoon, Striped Skunk and occasionally Woodchuck (or Groundhog). A general description of the visual appearance and key body features for each mammal is provided to help identify and differentiate between each species. We encourage the public to observe and report possible badger sightings to the Ontario Badger Project (see contact information below). To help prevent misidentifying American Badgers, please refer to this photo identification guide before reporting your badger sighting. If possible, also email a digital photo of your sighting to us.



Badger

Taxidea taxus

Greyish-white (grizzly looking) fur; black and white vertical stripes on face and head; large noticeable black hair patch on each cheek; furry tail same colour as body, approximately 16cm (6") long (not as bushy as Raccoon or Skunk); very long claws on front feet; tends to waddle and remain close to ground when walking.



Raccoon

Procyon lotor

Greyish-black fur; black horizontal mask across eyes and face; slightly bushy tail with distinct black bands; tends to walk more upright than badger.



Skunk

Mephitis mephitis

Black fur with typically one (or two) broad white band(s) extending from the head down its back to the rump; thin white vertical stripe down middle of face; black bushy tail with white tip; tends to walk in a slow 'non-urgent' manner.



Opossum

Didelphis virginiana

Greyish-white fur on body (fur appears thinned); white face with pinkish nose and black hairless ears; tail approximately 33cm (13") long, light-coloured and hairless ('rat-like' looking).



Groundhog

Marmota monax

Reddish-brown fur; stubby roundish ears; tail dark brown, slightly furry and shorter than the above four mammals; maintains a low profile when walking along ground.

