American Marten

- **Martes Americana**
  - 20-27" long
  - Tail 7-9"
  - 1-2.75 lbs.
  - Males 15% larger
  - Dark brown body
    - May have chest spot
    - Orange to whitish
    - Small dot to large patch
  - Dark eyes
  - Bushy tail
  - Abdominal scent gland
  - Habitat
    - Mature coniferous forest
      - Including woody debris
    - For prey cover
    - Avoids cut or burned habitat
  - Den
    - Hollow tree or log
    - Lined with dry leaves/grass

Range
- Alaska to Newfoundland
- South into Rockies, Cascades, Olympics, Coast range, Sierras

Feeding
- Opportunistic
- Mostly voles
- Squirrels, hares, eggs, hatchlings
- Insects, carrion, berries
- Summer may climb higher for pikas and marmots

Reproduction
- Breed July/August (2-3 y/o)
- Delayed implantation
- Young born in March/April
  - 1-6 (avg 3-4)
  - 1 oz
  - Weaned 6-7 weeks
  - Disperse @ 3 months

Track
- 5 toes each foot
- Claws evident
- Non-retractable
- Front and rear may overlap
- Small palm pad
- Furry outline

Scat
- Variable depending on meal
- Vole/rodents
  - Segmented individual elongated droppings
- Berries/insects
  - Loose, clumping
  - Meal remnants evident
**Fisher**

- *Martes pennanti*
  - 31-47" long
  - Tail 12-16"
  - 4.5 – 12 lbs.
  - Dark brown body
  - Typically no alternate chest or abdominal color
    - Small white chest spot rare
  - Rounded ears
  - Fox-like face
  - Pointed rostrum
  - Tail may include gold to brown to black
- **Habitat**
  - Dense coniferous forest
  - Avoid young or cleared/thinned forest
  - Mostly nocturnal
  - Large individual range
- **Den**
  - Hollow trees/logs, rock crevices, brush piles
  - Usually temporary

**Fisher**

- **Range**
  - Central/Southern Canada to NE U.S.
  - Into Northern Rockies, Cascades, Siskiyous, Sierras
  - Olympics?
- **Feeding**
  - Opportunistic
  - Squirrels, hares, mice, muskrats, birds, porcupines
  - Occasionally berries, nuts, carrion
- **Reproduction**
  - Breed April (@2 y/o)
  - 1 week after giving birth
  - Delayed implantation until January
  - Birth March/April
  - Nurse 7 weeks

**Fisher**

- **Track**
  - 5 toes each foot
  - Non-retractable claws seen
  - Fore paw may include heel pad
  - Walking track shows separated tracks
  - Running front and hind paws may overlap
- **Scat**
  - 0.25" diameter
  - Segmented
  - Not as likely to show berries, etc than marten.
  - Not as regularly consumed
Short-Tailed Weasel

**Mustela erminea**

- **Length**: 7.5-13"
- **Tail**: 1.5-3.5"
- **Weight**: 1.5-3.75 oz.
- **Summer coat**
  - Medium/light brown upper
  - White to yellowish under
  - White paws
  - Black tail end
- **Winter coat**
  - Oct/Nov turns white
  - Except black tail tip
  - Mar/April returns to brown
- **Short round ears**
- **Long neck**
- **Habitat**
  - Coniferous/mixed forest
  - Also streamside
  - May move alpine in summer

- **Den**
  - Take over other borrows
  - Lined with dried grass, fur/feathers of prey

- **Range**
  - Most of Canada, Northern U.S., excluding western Dakotas/ Eastern Montana
  - Washington – all of Cascades, Olympics, and Selkirk range

- **Feeding**
  - Mice, voles, shrews, chipmunks, pocket gophers, pikas, rabbits, bird eggs, nestlings, insects, amphibians

- **Reproduction**
  - Breed at 2-3 months
  - Born Apr/May
  - 4-12 per litter (avg 6-9)
  - Male joins family and impregnates mother and all young females
  - Males not mature until next Feb/March

- **Track**
  - Hindprints ¾" wide, 1" long
  - 4 of 5 toes printing
  - Claws evident
  - Foreprints slightly wider than hindprints
  - Approximately half as long
  - Hindfeet usually placed in or near foreprints
  - Sometimes side by side or ahead

- **Scat**
  - Dark brown or black
  - Long, slender and segmented
  - Tapering at one end
  - Frequently contains hair or bits of bone
  - Deposited on rocks, logs, or stumps
Long-Tailed Weasel

**Mustela frenata**
- 11-12" length
- 4.75-11" tail
- 3-14 oz.
- Summer coat similar to ermine
- Cinnamon brown
- Underside more yellow than white
- Feet brown
- Winter coat also like ermine
- White except tail tip
- Might have yellow tint on belly
- **Habitat**
  - Open habitat
  - Agriculture, grasslands, alpine tundra
  - **Den**
  - Take over den of prey
  - Lined with fur from prey

- **Range**
  - Nearly all of U.S., SW Canada, all of Mexico excluding Baja, into C.A.
  - All of Washington
- **Feeding**
  - Voles, mice, ground squirrels, wood rats, red squirrels, rabbits, shrews, bird eggs, nestlings
- **Reproduction**
  - Mate mid-summer
  - Born April/May
  - Delayed implantation
  - 4-9 per litter
  - Weaned at 7 weeks
  - Males ~1 oz larger than females at this point
  - Another male joins and impregnates females

- **Track**
  - Very similar to ermine
  - ~1" x 1"
  - Longer hind print
  - ~2" x 3"
  - Claws seen
  - May show 5th digit
  - Bounding gait leaves prints overlapped
- **Scat**
  - brown or black
  - Long, slender and segmented
  - Less so than ermine
  - Tapering at one end
  - May have hair or bone
  - Used to mark territory on rocks, logs, or stumps
**Mink**

- *Mustela vison*
  - 19-28” long
  - Tail 5-8.25”
  - 1.75-3 lbs.
  - Sleek, dark brown to black
  - May have white spots on chin and/or chest
  - Cylindrical, bushy tail
  - Short legs
  - Male 2x female
  - Anal scent glands like skunk

**Habitat**

- Near water in coniferous/hardwood forests, brushlands, grasslands

**Den**

- Burrow close to water
- May build own or take over abandoned beaver or muskrat burrow
  - Lined with grass, feathers, fur

**Range**

- Eastern half of U.S.
- All but most northern Canada
- Washington – All but dry SE

**Feeding**

- Muskrats when possible
- Fish, frogs, waterfowl, eggs, mice, voles, rabbits, snakes, crayfish

**Reproduction**

- Breed late Jan – early April
- Birth late April/early May
  - Variable delayed implantation
  - 1 week to 1.5 months
  - Gestation ~ 1 month
- Litters of 2-10 (avg 4-5)
- Weaned at 5 weeks
- On their own at 8-12 weeks
- After 2-3 weeks learning to hunt