

Dear 4-H Rangeland Team Members,

Before you dive into the animal identification guide (the rest of this elaborate paper) understand this: I want you to understand what I am looking for when I am looking at animals. Each animal on the list has **key features** (hint hint) that I search for on an animal. Sometimes, animals have similar features with slight (small or rather extravagant!) changes. I am wanting to help you. I know all the odd (sometimes really useless for some animals) genus specie names are not worth studying (yet...) but this helps organize them.

The list has birds first, followed by mammals, then reptiles.

Have fun and don't stress,

Ryan Kindall

# Animal Identification

## Birds

### Mourning Dove- *Zenaida macroura*

- Native
- Cover: Open
- Prey
- Herbivore
- Common Names: Turtle Dove, American Mourning Dove, Carolina Pigeon
- Plump Body with long slender tail
- Head sometimes seem smaller than the body
- Soft brown to buffy-tan overall; black spots on wings; black bordered white tips of wings

### Ruffed Grouse-*Bonasa umbellus*

- Native
- Cover: Brush; Timber
- Prey
- Herbivore
- Brown or gray-brown body; chicken-like
- Fan-shaped tail; black-banded
- Barred pattern flanks (cryptid)
- Black “ruffs” on sides of neck

### Red-Tailed Hawk- *Buteo jamaicensis*

- Native
- Cover: Open
- Predator
- Carnivore
- Rich brown backside; pale underside
- Cinnamon colored topside of tail; white bottom-side of tail
- Young have brown and banded tails

### Sage Grouse-*Centrocercus urophasianus*

- Native
- Cover: Open
- Prey
- Herbivore

## Animal Identification

- Mottled gray-brown with a black belly;
- Males black head and throat; fluffy white ruff, surrounds a pair of inflatable yellow air sacs
- Females have a dusky cheek patch emphasized by markings behind the eye

### Sharp-tailed Grouse-*Tympanuchus phasianellus*

- Native
- Cover: open
- Prey
- Herbivore
- Medium to large chicken-like bird
- Spotted brown and white
- Short, pointed tail; white at base
- Wings long and rounded in flight

### American Badger- *Taxidea taxus*

- Native
- Cover: Open
- Predator
- Omnivore
- Flat long body; long brown or black fur
- Triangular head; long pointed nose
- Two white stripes along the cheeks; One long white stripe from nose to tail
- Sharp claws

### Columbian Ground Squirrel- *Spermophilus columbianus*

- Native
- Cover: Open
- Prey
- Herbivore
- Black and grey fur; white-speckling throughout
- Tan to red fur on the face, nose, chest, underside, and legs
- Reddish-black tail
- White around the eyes

# Animal Identification

## Mountain Cottontail- *Sylvilagus nuttallii*

- Native
- Cover: Brush; Timber
- Prey
- Herbivore
- Grayish-brown fur; yellowish appearance topside; whitish on underside
- Distinct black line along margin (edge) of ear
- Distinct large tail; dark topside; white underside, hence “cottontail”

## Coyote- *Canis lutrans*

- Native
- Cover: Open
- Predator
- Carnivore
- Grayish-brown to yellowish-brown fur on top; whitish fur on underparts
- Large triangular ears; long, narrow muzzle; yellow eyes
- Long, bushy tail

## Mountain Lion- *Puma concolor*

- Native
- Cover: Timber; Brush
- Predator
- Carnivore
- Tan-brown with a whitish throat; unspotted coat
- Tips of ears and tail black

## Mule Deer- *Odocoileus hemionus*

- Native
- Cover: Brush; Timber
- Prey
- Herbivore
- Yellowish to red-brown coat during summer; gray during winter
- Ears resemble that of a mule; black tipped
- Throat patch, rump patch, inside ears, and inside legs white; may be cream to tan on lower portions

## Pronghorn- *Antilocapra americana*

- Native
- Cover: Open
- Prey

## Animal Identification

- Herbivore
- Tan to reddish brown body
- Cheeks, belly, rump, chest, and inner legs are white
- Males have a black mask running from their eye down to the snout; black neck patches; horns are pronged
- Females do not have black markings or pronged horns
- Smaller than a mule deer

### Red Fox- *Vulpes vulpes*

- Native
- Cover: Timber; Brush; Open
- Predator
- Omnivore
- Orangish-red fur on back, sides, and head
- White fur on underside
- Long bushy tail; tipped white
- Ears pointed; black
- Legs and feet black

### White-tailed Deer- *Odocoileus virginianus*

- Native
- Cover: Timber
- Prey
- herbivore
- Tan or brown body in summer; grayish in winter
- White on its throat, around the eyes and nose, stomach and underside of its tail
- Antlers do not fork

### Yellow-bellied Marmot- *Marmota flaviventris*

- Native
- Cover: Open
- Prey
- Omnivore
- Reddish-brown fur; yellow underside
- Squirrel like in build

# Animal Identification

## Rattlesnake- Genus *Crotalis*

- Native
- Cover: Brush; Timber; Open
- Predator & Prey
- Carnivore
- Broad “Triangular” head
- Eyes have vertical pupils
- Covered in scales; variety of colors and patterns; scales are keeled
- **They are venomous and very dangerous; do not handle live!**

## Bull Snake- *Pituophis catenifer sayi*

- Native
- Cover: Timber; Brush; Open
- Predator & Prey
- Carnivore
- Body mainly tan or light brown; striped with dark brown or black blotches
- Tail tapers to a thin tip
- Head is narrow; pupils are round

# Animal Identification

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