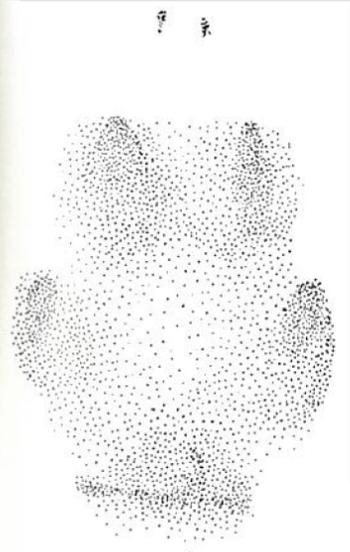


# TRACK ID GUIDE



## RED FOX

Front foot:  
2 1/4" x 2 1/8"

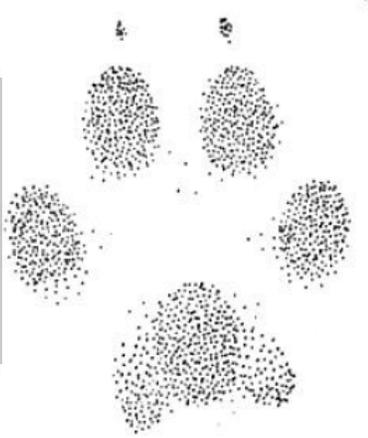
Hind foot:  
2" x 1 3/4"

Tracks are  
actual sizes of  
front paws.

## GRAY FOX

Front foot:  
2 1/4" x 2 1/8"

Hind foot:  
1 1/2" x 1 1/2"



## COYOTE

Front foot:  
2 1/2" x 2"

Hind foot:  
2 1/4" x 1 3/4"

Tracks reprinted with  
permission from  
Mammal Tracks and  
Sign by Mark  
Elbroch

# CANID MYTHS

## COYDOGS

"Coydog" is a common term used in northern New York referring to a hybrid between dogs and coyotes, but it is not correct. In theory, it is biologically possible for coyotes and dogs to hybridize. However, these crossbreeds have reproductive cycles of dogs and give birth at times of the year when pups cannot survive in the wild. In addition, domestic dogs and coyotes are behaviorally different, usually preventing hybrids from occurring. Coyotes are more likely to attack or prey on domestic dogs than mate with them.

## WOLVES IN NEW YORK

Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) populations historically existed in New York State, but wolves were extirpated practically across the nation in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The last wolf in northern New York was killed in the mid-1890s. The closest population of gray wolves now are in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and southern Ontario.

In the US, gray wolves are protected under the Endangered Species Act; they are also protected and listed as Endangered in New York State. This ensures that any wolves that may temporarily occupy New York from neighboring regions will be protected.



All photos are used with permission. Cover: Red Fox by Bill Hoffman/NYSDEC; Coyote by Alfred Viola, Northeastern Univ, Bugwood.org; and Gray Fox by David Mendenhall, Bugwood.org. Gray Wolf by Scott Flaherty, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Inside: Red Fox by Ronald Laubenstein, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org; Coyote by Jeff Bolsinger, Fort Drum; Gray Fox by NYSDEC. Range maps by NatureServe, www.explorer.natureserve.org.



Natural Resources Branch  
Environmental Division  
Directorate of Public Works  
Fort Drum, NY

315-772-9303 / 772-9636  
www.fortdrum.isportsman.net

2018

# RED FOX

(*Vulpes vulpes*)



Red foxes inhabit practically the entire Northern Hemisphere making it one of the most widely distributed terrestrial carnivores in the world.

Red foxes are very adaptable and found throughout New York State living in a variety of habitats including fallow fields,

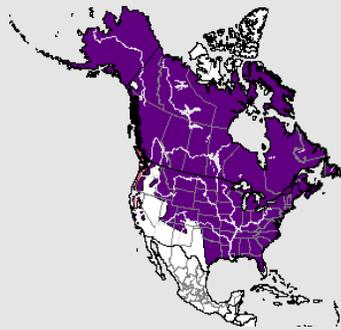
farmland, forested areas, and residential areas.

Red foxes also feed on a number of different food items such as small mammals, birds, amphibians, insects, and fruits. In urban areas, red foxes will also eat garbage items and pet food.

Throughout the year, a red fox can be easily identified by its coat. They are typically a shade of red or orange, but they may also be silver, black, or mixed-color morphs. Their legs and ears are typically black, whereas their throat, chest and underside are white. The tip of the tail will always be white.

Red foxes are approximately 3 feet long (tail included) and stand about 16 inches at the shoulder. Their tails are nearly half their total body length. Red foxes weigh between 8-12 pounds; typically the male is larger than the female.

Red foxes can be commonly seen on Fort Drum, including the Cantonment Area.



# EASTERN COYOTE

(*Canis latrans*)

Originally native to the western and central U.S., coyotes have expanded their range eastward since the early 1900s with the eradication of gray wolves and the creation of suitable habitats. Today coyotes can be found throughout the United States and most of Canada.

Like the red fox, coyotes are highly adaptable and can be found in grasslands, forests, tundra, mountains, farmlands, and urban areas including metropolitan areas like New York City and Chicago. Their diets are also diverse and they will consume whatever is readily available including small and large mammals, birds, insects, carrion, and vegetation such as fruit, grasses and seeds.



Typically the coat of a coyote is a mixture of brown, with tinges of darker gray and black on its back and tail; their legs, muzzle and the back of their ears are tan. Some coyotes may have white fur on their chin and underside whereas some are very dark.

The eastern coyote is the largest wild canine found on Fort Drum. They are often compared to the size of a German Shepherd, and can weigh 35-50 pounds and stand approximately 28 inches at the shoulder and have a total body length of 4-5 feet.



# GRAY FOX

(*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)



Gray foxes are a relatively common species in North America and parts of South America, but they tend to be less conspicuous than Red Foxes. Gray Foxes are found throughout New York State and can be seen on Fort Drum.

The gray fox is the smallest of the three canids. Gray foxes are stout and only stand about 14 inches at the shoulder. Their total body length is just under 3 feet long and they weigh 7-13 pounds.

Also called the "Tree Fox," this species has long claws and forelimbs that rotate further than other fox species. These adaptations allow them to readily climb trees more like a cat. Gray Foxes prefer hardwood and deciduous forests, brushy areas, and old fields for shelter and foraging. Their diet is mostly comprised of small mammals, but will also contain invertebrates and seasonally available fruits and seeds.

The individual hairs that cover most of their body are tri-colored bands (three colors on each hair), which create a grizzled gray coat. Cinnamon-colored fur tinges the ears, neck, sides and legs, and their throat and stomach are light. A black-tipped tail will help distinguish it from a Red Fox. A dark streak of fur running up the back from the tail tip is also a distinguishing feature.



Red Foxes, Coyotes, and Gray Foxes are all protected in New York State as furbearing animals—all three species can be hunted or trapped during their respective seasons per New York State regulations.