



Striped Skunk
(*Mephitis mephitis*)
Can spray its foul-smelling musk up to 15 ft (4.5m)! This rarely used star and is preceded by warning signals, like tail wagging & hissing. Eats everything from corn to & devour yellow jackets!



Spotted Skunk
(*Spilogale putorius*, *grecus*)
A small skunk with a bold pattern and a defensive handstand (see cover)



Badger
(*Taxidea taxus*)
With strong claws & a stout stature, these burrowers dig to eat, rest, take refuge, and even to bury their poop.



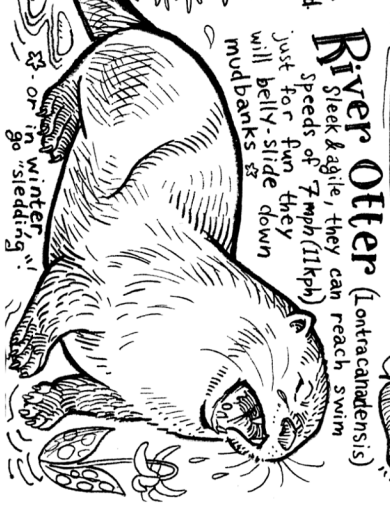
Wolverine
(*Gulo gulo*)
Formidable & hungry, this giant bearlike weasel can take down prey many times its size.



Black-footed Ferret
(*Mustela nigripes*)
This continent's rarest mammal, denizen of the Great Plains. They were brought back from near-extinction with captive breeding. Their fate is closely tied to Prairie Dogs, their main source of food.



Mink
(*Mustela vison*)
Like their weasel kin, minks will convert dens of their prey for their own! Their lustrous fur insulates them from cold water, as they live an amphibious lifestyle.



River Otter
(*Lontra canadensis*)
Sleek & agile, they can reach swim speeds of 7 mph (11 kph). Just for fun they will belly-slide down mudbanks.



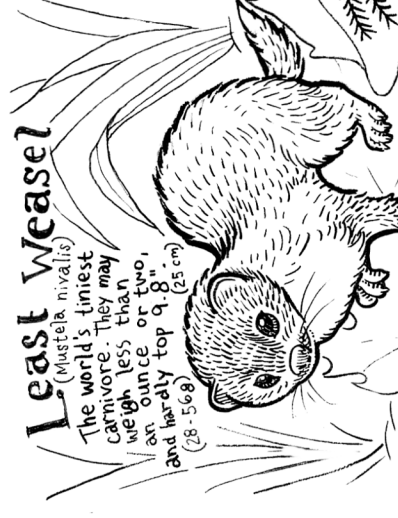
Sea Otter
(*Enhydra lutris*)
The largest mustelid, they reach 100 lbs (45 kg) with the densest fur (a million hairs per inch!) the fur trade almost wiped out the species. Eats urchins, shellfish & mollusks. Floats on its back while balancing a rock to used in sleep.



Pine Marten
(*Martes americana*)
Wilderness-loving these elusive creatures prefer undisturbed forest where they can hunt squirrels & tree-toes. Loggers, trappers and developers threaten martens.



Fisher
(*Pekania pennanti*)
Like a large dark marten. An accomplished tree-climber. "Fisher" is a misnomer, as they prefer aboreal prey. Besides cougar, they are the only animal to actively hunt porcupine (as far as I know!)



Least Weasel
(*Mustela nivalis*)
The world's tiniest carnivore. They may weigh less than an ounce or two, and barely top 9.8" (25 cm) (28-50g)



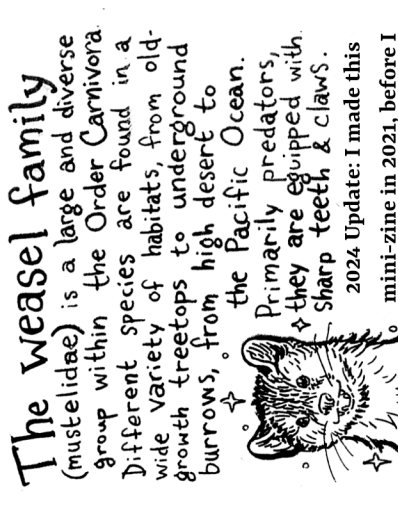
Short-Tailed Weasel
(*Mustela erminea*)
AKA Stoat or Ermine, especially in its winter pelage. A voracious hunter of rodents.



Muskrat
(*Fiber zibicicus*)
12 musky marauders found in N. America



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The weasel family

(mustelidae) is a large and diverse group within the Order Carnivora. Different species are found in a wide variety of habitats, from old-growth treetops to underground burrows, from high desert to the Pacific Ocean.

Primarily predators, they are equipped with sharp teeth & claws.

2024 Update: I made this mini-zine in 2021, before I had internet at home, using outdated sources (library discards). Skunks are now considered separate from the weasel family.

DNA evidence suggests that they are more related to red pandas and raccoons!

— Diana Barnacle