

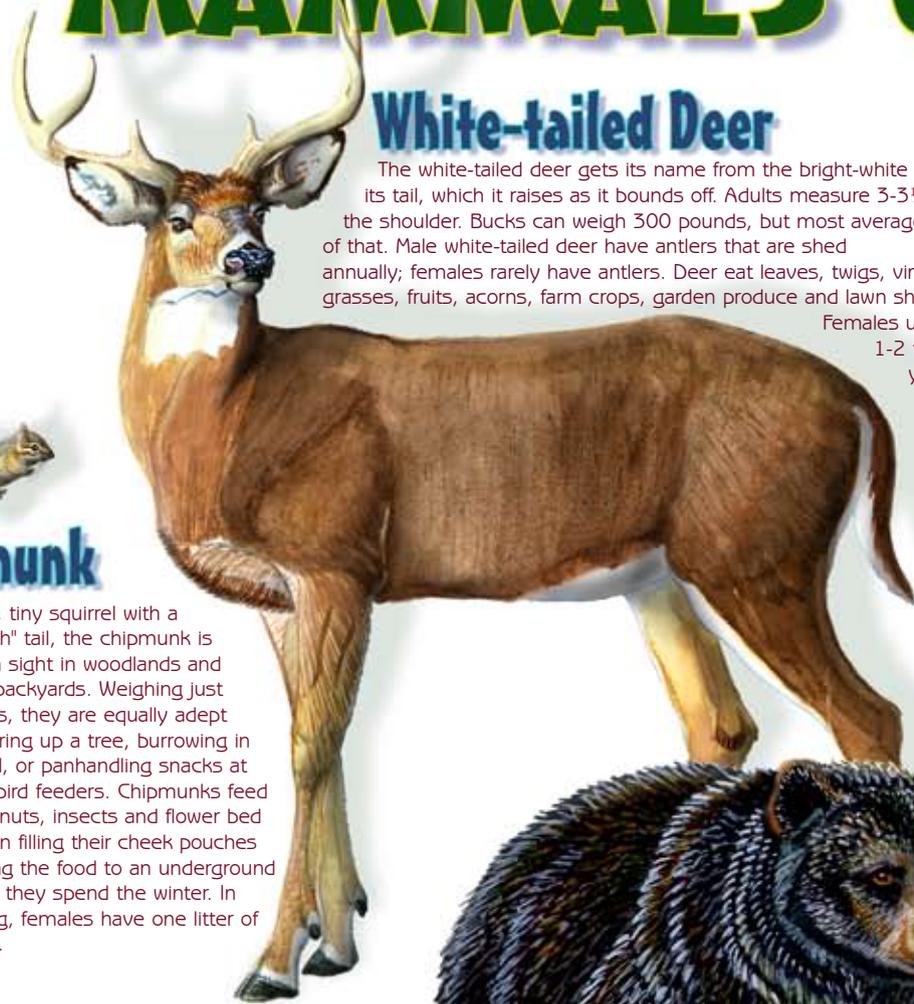
# MAMMALS OF

# NEW YORK STATE

## White-tailed Deer

The white-tailed deer gets its name from the bright-white underside of its tail, which it raises as it bounds off. Adults measure 3-3½ feet tall at the shoulder. Bucks can weigh 300 pounds, but most average about half of that. Male white-tailed deer have antlers that are shed annually; females rarely have antlers. Deer eat leaves, twigs, vines, herbs, grasses, fruits, acorns, farm crops, garden produce and lawn shrubbery.

Females usually have 1-2 fawns per year in spring-time. Young are reddish, spotted with white.



## Chipmunk

A sprightly, tiny squirrel with a "bottlebrush" tail, the chipmunk is a common sight in woodlands and suburban backyards. Weighing just 3-4 ounces, they are equally adept at scampering up a tree, burrowing in the ground, or panhandling snacks at camps or bird feeders. Chipmunks feed on seeds, nuts, insects and flower bed bulbs, often filling their cheek pouches and carrying the food to an underground den where they spend the winter. In early spring, females have one litter of 4-5 young.

## Black Bear

New York's only bear species, the black bear lives in mature forests, mostly in the Adirondacks, Catskills and Southern Tier. Adults average 2½-3 feet tall at the shoulder and weigh 200 pounds, but some reach more than 600 pounds. Bears feed on fruits, seeds, nuts, berries, grasses, as well as insects, fish, meat and honey. They winter in a den. Every other winter females give birth to 1-4 cubs (average is 2). Cubs stay with their mother until about 1½ years of age.



## Little Brown Bat



The most common of New York's nine species of bats, the little brown bat is most often seen flying through the last glow of sunset. Its 3½ inch body weighs just slightly more than a quarter ounce; its wingspan measures 8 inches. The little brown bat eats flying insects generally about the size of a mosquito. This bat has a big appetite, with pregnant and nursing females consuming nearly one-half of their body weight in insects per night. Males and young eat less. Females produce one young per year. They hibernate in caves and abandoned mines during winter.

## Eastern Cottontail

The eastern cottontail rabbit is one of New York's most common farm and woodland-edge mammals. It is a popular game species and prey for many predators. Adults weigh 2½-3 pounds. They eat tender green vegetation, garden produce and bark and buds of trees, vines and shrubs. They nest in grassy fields, under bushes, in briars, on lawns or in flower beds. Females can produce two or more litters of 4-8 young per year.



## Skunk



Well known by its distinctive black and white fur and for the pungent odor it releases when threatened, the skunk is a member of the weasel family. Adults average 2½ feet long and 10 pounds in weight. Semi-nocturnal animals, skunks feed mostly at night on insects and small rodents, often along roadsides and in suburban yards. Each spring, females produce one litter of 4-8 kits, usually in an underground den.

## Raccoon



The raccoon is easily recognized by its familiar "masked" face and bushy, ringed tail. Adults grow to be about 2½ feet in length and up to 30 pounds in weight. While they will eat almost anything, including garden produce and garbage, in the wild raccoons eat fruits, insects and a variety of aquatic animals such as crayfish and frogs. Raccoons den in hollow trees, burrows, rock ledges and buildings. Females produce one litter of 3-7 cubs per year. While cute, raccoons can be a nuisance around houses and carry diseases such as rabies.

## Gray Squirrel



A very common woodland, suburban and urban species, the gray squirrel is a frequent visitor at backyard bird feeders. Adults weigh about one pound and feed on nuts, seeds and other plant material. They build nests constructed of a bulky collection of leaves fairly high in trees, or they may den in tree cavities and buildings. Females have two litters of 2-4 young per year.