

Mammals can be tricky to photograph because they're often shy, speedy and/or well camouflaged. To increase the odds of getting shots worth sharing on iNaturalist, here are a few pointers.

Zoom in to get a great shot while keeping a safe distance. Getting too close to wildlife can stress them — and put yourself in danger. Digital cameras let you zoom in closer than a smartphone or tablet.

Keep snapping! The more photos you take, the more likely some will be in focus. If your subject is moving, use settings like "burst," "sports" or "high speed" to fire off a rapid volley of shots.

Try to capture key features that will help identify the species: the overall **body** shape, the colour and pattern of the coat, the shape and position of the **ears**, and the presence or absence of a **tail**.

Crop your photos before you share them on iNaturalist to make it easier to distinguish the animal from its background.

Capture other evidence. Even if you're unable to spot mammals in the flesh, you can identify what's been there by photographing footprints, scat or bones (especially skulls). To provide a sense of scale, include a ruler or coin in your shot. Audio recordings can also identify mammals you hear but can't see.



Photos (clockwise from top left):
moose by Doug Derksen;
mountain cottontail by Leta Pezderic;
mule deer by NCC;
yellowquill antler by NCC.