

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;
elk antler by NCC.