

# LaRC Species Highlight:

## Northern Raccoon

**COMMON NAME:** Northern Raccoon

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Procyon lotor*

**DIET:** rodents, eggs, crayfish, frogs, fish, snakes, insects, nuts, vegetables, fruits, grains, small mammals and, sometimes, roadkill.

**SIZE:** 16 – 28 in

**WEIGHT:** 7.7 – 20 lbs



## FUN FACTS

### Appearance and Attributes

- ✓ The Raccoon's most distinctive feature is its "bandit's mask".
- ✓ Raccoons often have a brown-black streak of color extending between their eyes from the forehead to the nose.
- ✓ Their body is covered in a mix of dark and light hair, which helps them blend into the dappled light of their forest habitat.
- ✓ About 90% of its hair is a thick undercoat which they start shedding in late winter.

### Life History and Diet

- ✓ Raccoons are omnivorous and opportunistic.
- ✓ They can be a nuisance to farmers or gardeners when they raid poultry houses for eggs and chicks, or damage crops.
- ✓ Raccoons' preferred habitat is wooded areas near water.



● Distribution

Map of habitat range in North America.



The raccoon is mostly nocturnal, and it is solitary, except for mothers with their young.

Raccoons like to manipulate and feel food. They're known for "washing" it, but it's more accurate to call them food "wettters."



Northern Raccoons are native to North America and live throughout the United States, as well as parts of Mexico, Canada, and northern South America. They can live in a wide range of habitats from cold grasslands to warm, tropical areas. They need to be close by water and prefer to inhabit moist woodland areas. As with any wild animal, if you see a raccoon near your facility do not disturb it or try to feed it. If a Northern Raccoon on LaRC is hurt or showing unusual behavior, please call the LaRC Environmental Office (Ade Remington) at 757-864-8332. In an emergency, call 911 (from a Center phone) or 864-2222 (from a cell phone).

## SPECIES STATUS:



Least concern

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