



# FISHER

*Martes pennanti*



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

Fishers range from 2.5 to 4 feet in length. Much of this length is taken up by the tail.

### WEIGHT

Adult fishers weigh between five and eleven pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

Fishers are predators, and they eat mice, porcupines, squirrels, snowshoe hares, birds, and shrews. They may also feed on fruits and berries such as beechnuts and apples.

### HABITAT

Fishers prefer coniferous forests, but they are also found in mixed and deciduous forests.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Fishers are found only in North America, from the Sierra Nevada of California to the Appalachians of West Virginia and Virginia. Populations have declined in the southern parts of their range in recent history. They are found in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

### FUN FACT

One of the favorite prey items of the Fisher is porcupines!

The Fisher is a large member of the weasel family that is primarily adapted to northern coniferous forests. Fishers are agile and speedy tree climbers, but they usually move on the ground. They are quite solitary, and there is little evidence that they ever travel together, except possibly during the mating season. Fishers use resting sites, such as logs, hollow trees, stumps, holes in the ground, brush piles, and nests of branches during all times of the year. During the winter, fishers use snow dens, which are burrows under the snow with long and narrow tunnels leading to them.

