

Dichotomous Key for Skull Identification

1. Teeth absent, beak present..... Birds, Go to 2
Teeth present Non-birds Go to 3
2. Beak curved, forward eye sockets.....**Barred owl (*Strix varia*)**
Beak straight, eye sockets on side..... **Wild turkey, (*Meleagris gallopavo*)**
3. Canines not particularly long and pointed or absent Go to 4
Canines long, prominent, & pointed Go to 6
4. Incisors large, well-developed Go to 5
Incisors on top jaw missing as well as skull length > 250 mm..... **Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)**
5. Pre-molars & molars large, broad, & flat; upper & lower cheek teeth match when jaw is closed as well as skull length < 70 mm **Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**
Pre-molars & molars large, broad, & flat; upper & lower cheek teeth match when jaw is closed as well as skull length > 120 mm **American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)**
6. Pre-molars & molars have some sharp points; eye sockets forward facing but not close to front of skull Go to 7
Pre-molars & molars sharp & pointed; eye sockets forward facing and very close to front of skull which has a length < 130 mm.....**Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)**
7. Top and bottom jaw possess small rounded tooth directly behind large canines with a noticeable gap before appearance of pre-molars and molars**Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)**
No noticeable gap after tooth that directly follows canines..... Go to 8
8. Noticeably elongated skull in front of eye sockets; pre-molars & molars total > 10 Go to 9
Skull not very elongated in front of eye sockets; pre-molars & molars total < 10.....
..... **Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)**
9. Total skull length is < 120 mm Go to 10
Total skull length is > 190 mm **Coyote (*Canis latrans*)**
10. Narrow elongated eye socket present **Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis virginiana*)**
Eye socket not narrow and elongated.....**Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)**

