



Who Left These Traces?

While hiking along mountain trails and in picnic area, you'll come across evidence of various animals' presence. What animal could have left these signs? A closer look reveals that animals live much nearer than we might expect.

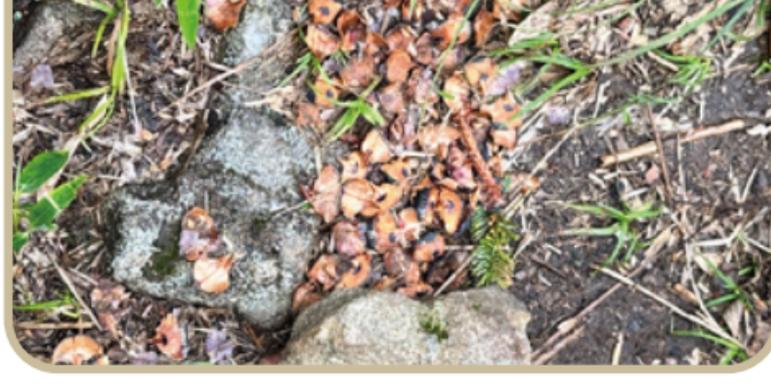
How many did you figure out?

A : Bear shelves



Asiatic black bears climb Mongolian oaks and other trees to reach the trees' nuts, breaking off the branches and pulling off the nuts to eat. This creates a cluster of branches like the one at the top of this tree. These clusters are found at great heights, demonstrating the bears' superior climbing abilities.

B : Dining hall



When hiking in the alpine zone, such as around Murodo, you may come across piles of pine cone fragments on the ground. These indicate the “dining halls” of the spotted nutcracker. After extracting the seeds from the dwarf stone pine cones, the birds carry the nuts to the top of a flat rock or a similar site to eat.

C : Empty walnuts



Around Ichinose, you may see empty walnut shells that have holes or are split open. The holes are made by field mice such as the large Japanese field mouse, while the split shells are left by Japanese squirrels.

D : Footprints



While hiking on muddy or sandy trails, take a close look at the ground—you may notice footprints other than those of humans. Studies using sensor-triggered cameras have shown that animals such as Japanese serows and wild boars also use these trails.