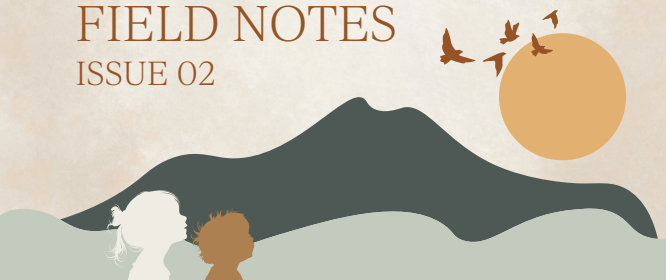


Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE 02



Ermine | WEASEL FAMILY

HABITAT:

Woodlands across North America and Eurasia.

DIET:

Carnivore (meat eater). Mostly mammals smaller than rabbits such as voles and mice. Occasionally insects, fish, and birds.

FUN FACTS:

Also goes by the name Stoat or Short-tailed weasel. Not a ferret, but related to them.

Often run and hunt in a zig-zag pattern.



HAVE YOU EVER MET AN ANIMAL THAT WAS AN EXPERT AT HIDE-AND-SEEK?

Although ermines are typically very good at camouflage, the first time I saw one, he was almost impossible to miss. This was because he had put on his winter coat early. You see, ermines are different colors depending on the time of year. Most of the year, the ermine sports a brown coat of fur, which helps him hide well in the woods. In winter, when there is normally snow on the ground, they turn white. The problem, however, was that there was no snow yet. As my family hiked through the woods, my husband saw a flash of bright color running along the forest floor. The ermine's white coat stood out against the browns and greens of the pine forest.

The ermine stopped curiously on a log to watch us. He would be nearly impossible to see once snow arrived. When at last the forest turned winter white, he would return to his status as an expert hider.

Do you ever feel like hiding or blending in? Romans 12:2 says, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

As we follow God, we will look different from those who don't follow God. We will think, talk, and act in ways this world doesn't. That is good! Don't try to blend into your surroundings or copy other people. Instead, allow God to transform you into the wonderful person he created you to be!

Can you think of other creatures that are good at Hide-And-Seek?

Eryn Lynum
Master Naturalist, Bible Teacher,
Host of the Nat Theo Podcast
erynlynum.com



February 19, 2024