



Guide to Hunting in Germany

081 – PREDATORY GAME (*RAUBWILD*)

(2) Pine Marten / Stone Marten (*Baummartener / Steinmartener*)



Pine Marten / Beech Marten (*Baummartener*)

The **Pine Marten (Baummartener)** is a long, slender predator. The Marten varies in color from brown in summer to dark brown in winter, with belly parts that are brighter, ears that are brightly fringed, and a throat that has a yellow spot the color of an egg yolk.

The outside parts of the legs are much darker than the rest of the body. The soles of the Pine Marten's feet are hairy.

The Pine Marten lives in dense forests with heavy undergrowth. The Pine Marten lives in hollow trees and bird nests and is nocturnal. Pine Martens eat berries, birds, bird eggs, insects, lizards, mice, rats, and moles.



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The Pine Marten's mating season lasts from the end of July through August. After a gestation period of about 9 months, the female gives birth to two to five young. The mother nurses the young for about 8 weeks.



Stone Marten (*Steinmarder*)

The **Stone Marten (*Steinmarder*)** is grayish-brown; its throat is white and extends down from the breast to the front paws. The outside of the Stone Marten's legs and tail are dark. The ears are fringed with white, and the soles of the feet are not hairy.

The Stone Marten makes its home under old barns, piles of stone or wood and other areas of shelter close to human habitation. The Stone Marten's food is the same as that of the Pine Marten.



Large Weasel (*Hermelin*)

(3) Large Weasel (*Hermelin*)



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The Large Weasel (*Hermelin*) has a slender body, short legs a symmetrical, pointed head, flat nose, rounded ears, and relatively long fur.

The Large Weasel is about 12 inches long with a tail about four inches long. The color changes in March and November with the seasons. In summer, the upper parts of the Large Weasel are brownish; the chin, breast, belly, and inside of legs are white; the last third of the tail is black. In early winter the Weasel's fur turns completely white, except the end of the tail, which remains black.

The Large Weasel may be found where there is enough food and shelter. It travels along hedgerows and near dumps, stone piles, and similar terrain.

The Large Weasel will eat almost all small animal or bird (for example, mice, rats, moles, rabbits, sparrows) and often seems to kill for entertainment.

The mating season is from February through March. In May the female gives birth to four to eight young.

(4) Small Weasel (*Mauswiesel*)

The Small Weasel (*Mauswiesel*) is about 10 inches long and has a tail about 2 inches long. The Small Weasel resembles the Large Weasel except that its tail does not have a black tip. The Small Weasel's fur does not turn white in Middle Europe.



Small weasels (*Mauswiesel*) driven from a winter-coated Mountain Hare carcass by a winter-coated Large Weasel (*Hermelin*), as illustrated in Gerald Edwin Hamilton Barrett-Hamilton's *A History of British Mammals*



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Small Weasel (*Mauswiesel*)



2 Small Weasels fighting

The habitat of the Small Weasel is similar to that of the Large Weasel and the Small Weasel eats mice, moles, and little birds. The Small Weasel is more day active, while the Large Weasel is more night active.

(5) Fitch (*Ilitis*)



Fitch (*Ilitis*)

The Fitch (*Ilitis*) is a weasel- or marten-type animal, slightly smaller than the Stone Marten. The total length is 20 to 22 inches. The upper parts of the body are dark brown and the lower parts are lighter. The fur is of medium length.

Fitches live in hollow trees, dens in the ground, and stone piles and they hunt whenever food can be found. The Fitch's food is similar to that of the Marten and Weasel. The mating season for the Fitch lasts from February to April. After a gestation period of six weeks, the female gives birth to 3 to 7 young.



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(6) Badger (*Dachs*)



Badger (*Dachs*)

The Badger was first thought to belong to the bear family (Ursidae) but after further study it has been conclusively linked to that of the martin/weasel clan (Mustelidae). As such it is the only burrowing member of that family.

Badgers are nocturnal, and they build multi-tiered burrows which are sometimes shared by Foxes and Rabbits. Badgers will normally use the lowest levels of the burrow.

Badgers are a hazard to dogs during a Fox burrow hunt. Foxes will abandon their dens hole, but the Badger will not.

A 16 to 34 pound Badger is a bit on the difficult side for a Dachshund, despite the earth dog's name.

Badgers are omnivores, feeding on fruit, berries, roots, insects and snails. It also fills a predatory role as taking mice and opportunistically very young and fallen mammals. They prefer corn on the cob when it is ripe. In combination with Wild Boar, Badgers will do great damage to fields.

Since the only natural enemies it has are big dogs (which it can avoid) and man, *Dachs* can present problems in a Revier.

The Badger depends on their sense of smell as a first line of defense. It has only average hearing and its sight is the almost the worst of any animal. Hunting the Badger is usually done from a high seat, either opportunistically or sometimes directed at that animal.



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Hunters will identify a commonly used exit and wait there at dusk for the Badger to come out.

Trophies: Earlier Badger fur was used to make shaving brushes. Their pelt (*Schwarte*) makes a decorative piece and the fat used to be thought to have miraculous healing powers.

Tooth formula: $\frac{3 \ 1 \ 4 \ 1}{3 \ 1 \ 4 \ 2}$ for 38 teeth

(7) Raccoon Dog & Raccoon (*Marderhund* & *Waschbär*)



Raccoon dog (*Marderhund*)

The range of the *Marderhund* stretches from Europe eastward to Siberia and southeast through Manchuria to Japan and Vietnam. The first record of a *Marderhund* being shot in Germany was in 1962 in Eastern Germany.

The forest department has determined that due to the artificial introduction and the increasing population, *Marderhund* should be taken whenever possible within hunting morals and legal considerations.

It is believed that the *Marderhund* preys on the same game as the fox. Its droppings contain undigested plant residue, hair and feathers. It is nocturnal, and it hides in burrows during daylight hours with foxes or badgers and sometimes in pipes and other man-made opportunities.



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Marderhund characteristics: 60-75 cm body length with a weight of 5-10 Kilos.

The *Marderhund* tooth formula is the same as fox: $\frac{3 \ 1 \ 4 \ 2}{3 \ 1 \ 4 \ 3}$ for a total of 42 teeth.

They stand about 18-22 cm at the shoulder.

HUNTING: Most of the *Marderhund* have been taken in traps.

BREEDING: Feb/Mar with a 9-week gestation. Six - eight pups that reach adulthood with 6 months and breed at 2 years.



Raccoon (*Waschbär*)

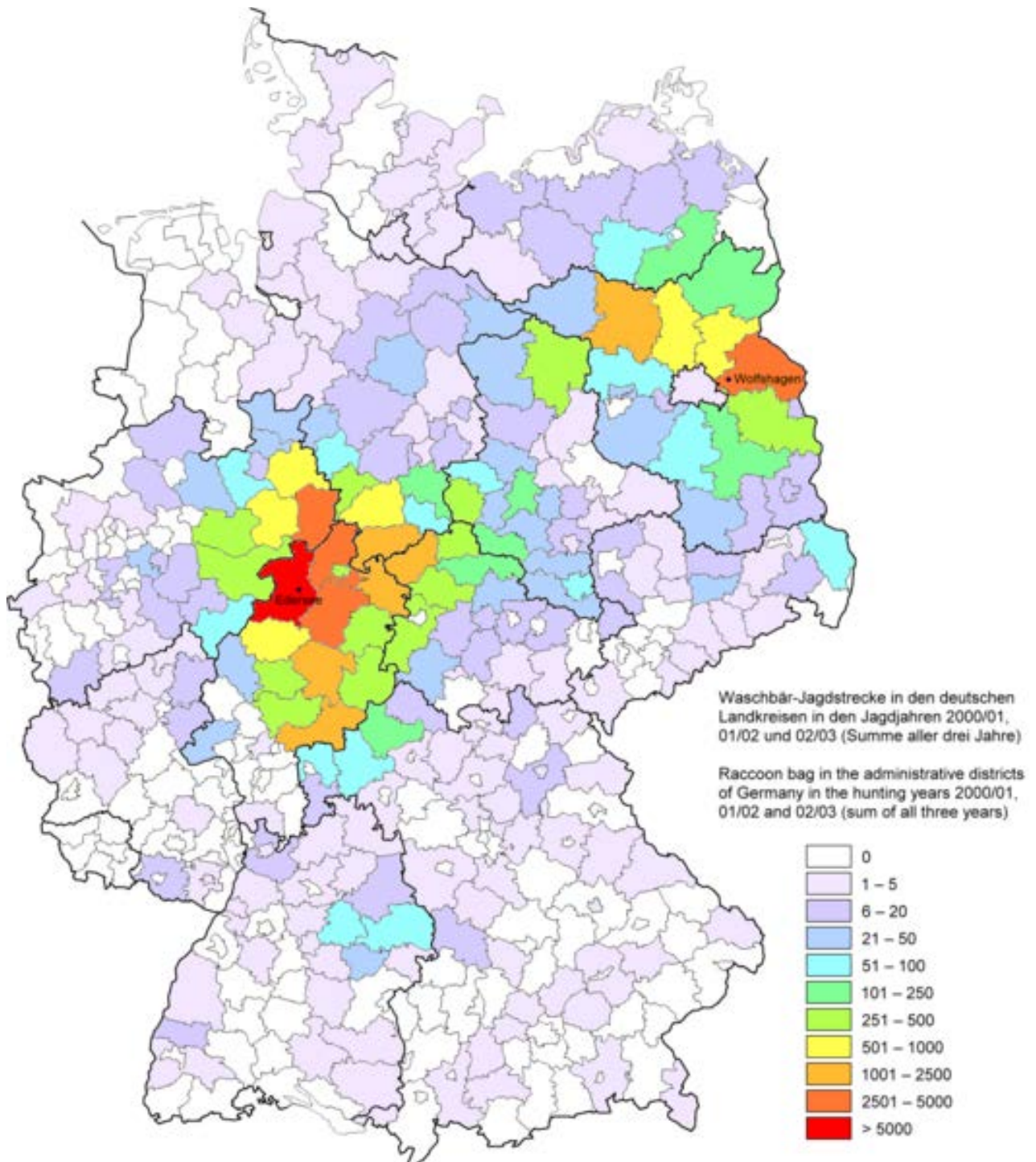
Raccoons (*Waschbären*) are omnivores and nocturnal. Their presence in Germany originates from animals that escaped from fur farms during WWII.



Raccoons feeding on a deer



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Raccoon hunting results in Germany during 2000/01 hunting year



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Lynx (*Eurasischer Luchs*)

Lynx (*Eurasischer Luchs*) are the biggest European feline, which in the distant past was spread throughout Germany. The lynx is now only in Northern Scandinavia, former eastern-bloc countries, in the Balkans and in the Swiss Alps. There are isolated populations located in Berchtesgaden, in the *Bayerischer Wald* and in the *Schwarzwald*.

This cat is a true carnivore which hunts with short bursts of speed to catch prey.

Tooth Formula: $\frac{3 \ 1 \ 2 \ 1}{3 \ 1 \ 2 \ 1}$ for 28 teeth

Wild Cat (*Wildkatze*)

The wildcat is found throughout Germany and resembles a striped house cat, therefore the danger of shooting by accident. The wildcat, however, does not do the damage of a feral cat therefore is a useful member of the ecosystem. It is a carnivore which preys mainly on mice; it also takes birds and mammals up to hare size. It may attack Roe deer fawns.

Tooth formula: $\frac{3 \ 1 \ 3 \ 1}{3 \ 1 \ 2 \ 1}$ for 30 teeth



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Wild Cat (*Wildkatze*)