## Ball State University Field Station and Environmental Education Center

## **Hone your Research Skills**

Use your animal identification skills to help real-life scientists identify what wildlife lives in Chicago.

- 1. Go to <a href="https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/chicago-wildlife-watch">https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/chicago-wildlife-watch</a>
- 2. Click to read about the Research Project and the Research FAQ (https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/chicago-wildlife-watch/about/research)
- 3. After reading, click on 'Classify' in the top right corner of the screen, or this link here <a href="https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/chicago-wildlife-watch/classify">https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/chicago-wildlife-watch/classify</a>
- 4. Read through the instructions on how to identify photos (information below is an abbreviated copy of the instructions on the website)
- 5. We are asking you to identify animals found in camera trap photos from around the city. Your help allows us to continue our research into urban biodiversity, making the city a better home for both humans and animals.
- 6. You are presented with a photo on the left and a list of potential animals on the right. When you spot an animal within a photo, click the corresponding animal on the right. You will be asked to supply some follow up language, such as the number of animals found in the image, whether or not there are young present, or if it's an exceptional photo. If there's more than one species in a photo, you can repeat the process after you hit "Identify". And remember, even if there you tag a photo 'nothing there', you still must click 'identify' before going to the 'next' image!
- 7. Occasionally it is difficult to determine which animal is in the photo. Just above the list of animals is a variety of methods to filter the animal list. Selecting different options reduces the number of choices, making your job easier. You can clear the selections you have made at the bottom of the screen.
- 8. If you need to delete any of your existing marks while viewing an image, simply find your animal in the list below the image and click the 'X' icon. Don't worry if you're unsure about your choices -- even a guess is more helpful than nothing! Several people look at each image.
- 9. Below is an example of a photo with the options you can select to identify what you see. Need help identifying what you see? Click on the tab 'Field Guide' on the right side of the screen for tips.

