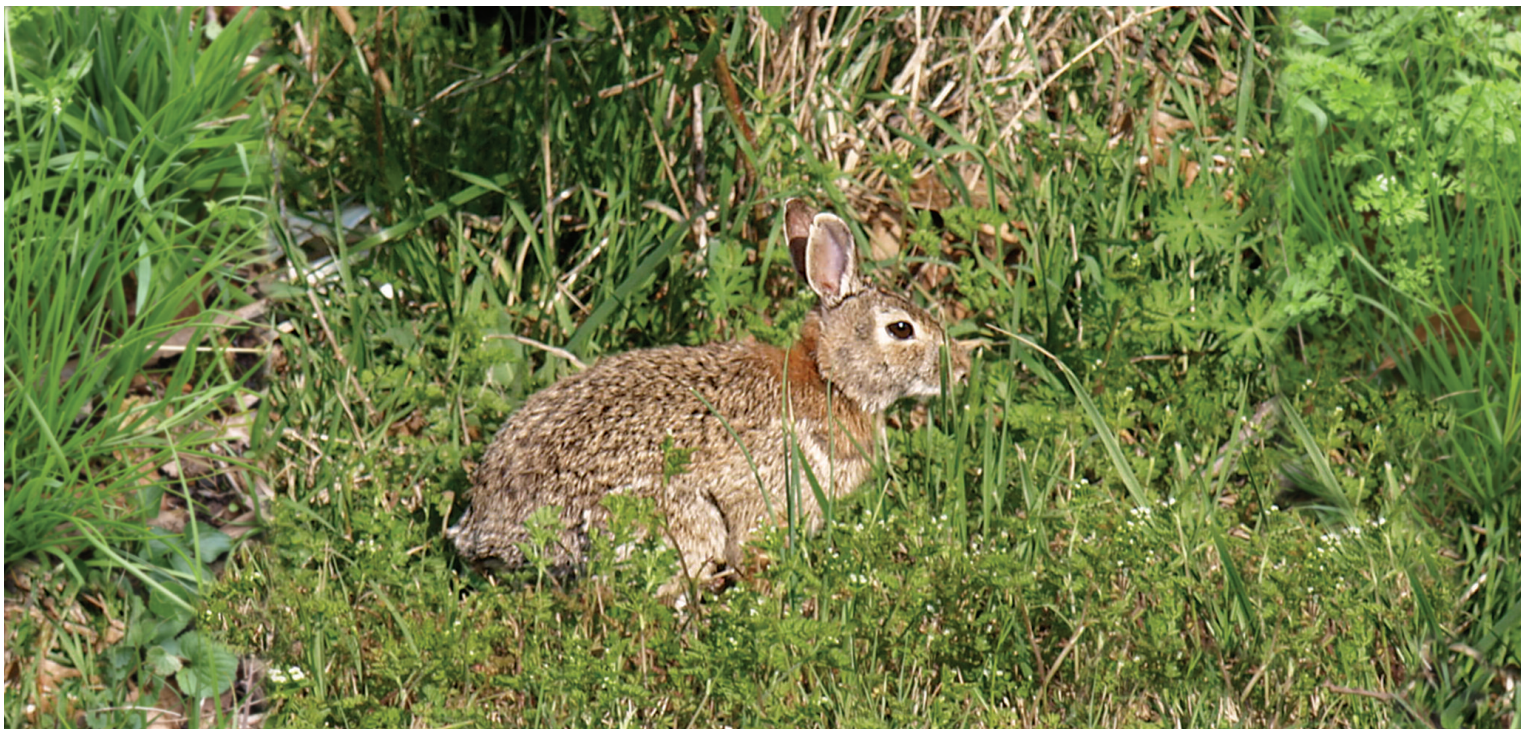


Cherokee Ethnobiology

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EASTERN COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Cherokee Importance

Eastern cottontails were very important as food. Cherokees also could have made many items from the tanned hides such as pouches or hats. Many people still hunt cottontails today.

Description

The eastern cottontail rabbit is a relatively small species of cottontail. They are generally reddish brown or grayish brown on their backs, sides and heads with white on their belly. Their white tails look like a ball of cotton, hence the name cottontail. Adult cottontails weigh from 2 – 4 pounds and are usually less than 10 inches tall. They have large ears, which they use to listen for predators, and large hind feet. They can attain speeds of 45 mph and evade predators by running in a zigzag pattern.

Where found: Eastern cottontail rabbits are found from SE Canada, throughout the eastern 2/3 of the US, through Mexico and Central America, down to the northernmost portions of South America. They prefer any habitat that provides them with ample cover and den or nest-building materials.

Other names: Cottontail rabbit, Cottontail, Bunny rabbit, Rabbit

Taxonomy:
Kingdom - Animalia
Phylum - Chordata
Class - Mammalia
Order – Lagomorpha
Family – Leporidae
Genus – *Sylvilagus*
Species – *floridanus*

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