Lemming

Primary Consumer — Herbivore

During the summer, lemmings enjoy young grasses and flowers, while they eat moss and shrubs during the winter. They leave behind hundreds of uniform poop pellets.

Ptarmigan

Primary/Secondary Consumer - Omnivore

Ptarmigans change from white (winter coat) to brown (spring / summer coat). Ptarmigans eat what they find on the ground: buds, leaves, flowers and seeds. Their poop is long and sawdust in color.

Arctic Fox

Tertiary Consumer — Predator

Foxes are resourceful scavengers, preferring small mammals (watch out lemmings!), birds, berries or polar bear leftovers. Fox poop has a tapered tail, and you may see feathers, fur or bones in it.

Arctic Hare

Primary Consumer — Herbivore

Hares have thick fur and dig beneath the snow for food and shelter. They eat woody shrubs, mosses, and lichens, but they also eat buds, berries, and roots. Hares are small, and so is their round scat.

Caribou

Primary Consumer — Herbivore

During the winter, you may notice snow scraped away from the ground. This might be from caribou! Caribou eat lichens year-round and leave behind large piles of dark, round and identical pellets.

Snowy Owl

Tertiary Consumer — Predator

Although snowy owl scat is white and semiliquid, owls also produce cough pellets. They cannot digest lemming bones, so they have to spit them back out! When owl pellets are new, they are shiny and black. What color will they turn as they age? (Hint: it gets lighter!)

Brown (Grizzly) Bear

Tertiary Consumer — Predator

Brown bears eat plant roots, berries, insects and animal carcasses. Often, you may find leftover seeds in their poop, and it takes on a berry red, blue or purple color.

Musk Oxen

Primary Consumer — Herbivore

Musk oxen eat flowers and grasses during the summer, while roots, mosses and lichens sustain them during the winter. In order to fuel their massive body size of 400 - 900 lbs., they eat a lot! Their intake is large, so their scat is large, too – like leftover cow pies.