RABBITS AND HARES: PICTORIAL KEY TO COMMON UNITED STATES SPECIES
Harold George Scott and Margery R. Borom

NOTE: Rabbits and hares are lagomorphs, not rodents. The incisor teeth are used to differentiate these two groups of mammals.

**Genus Sylvilagus**

**RABBITS**

**Western U.S.**
- Total length under 11-1/2 inches

**Sylvilagus idahoensis**
- Pygmy Rabbit
  - Total length 6.2 to 7.5 times ear length

**Southeastern U.S.**
- Total length about 9 times ear length

**Sylvilagus palustris**
- Marsh Rabbit
  - Total length 6.2 times ear length
  - Hind feet with short fur

**Sylvilagus auduboni**
- Desert Cottontail
  - Total length about 6.7 times ear length
  - Tail dark

**Sylvilagus nuttalli**
- Nuttall Cottontail
  - Total length about 5.9 times ear length
  - Tail light

**Sylvilagus floridanus**
- Eastern Cottontail
  - Total length about 7.4 times ear length
  - Upper foot dark

**Sylvilagus transitionalis**
- New England Cottontail
  - Total length about 4.8 times ear length
  - Upper foot white

**Genus Lepus**

**HARES**

**Southeastern U.S.**
- Total length over 20 inches

**West Coast of U.S.**
- Total length less than 6 times ear length

**Sylvilagus floridanus**
- Eastern Cottontail
  - Total length about 7.2 times ear length
  - Tail light

**Lepus americanus**
- Varying Hare
  - Total length about 7.2 times ear length
  - Under tail white

**Lepus townsendii**
- White-Tail Jack
  - Total length about 4.8 times ear length
  - Upper foot white

**Lepus europaeus**
- European Hare
  - Total length about 7.4 times ear length
  - Upper foot dark

**Lepus californicus**
- Black-Tail Jack

*All measurements for adults.*