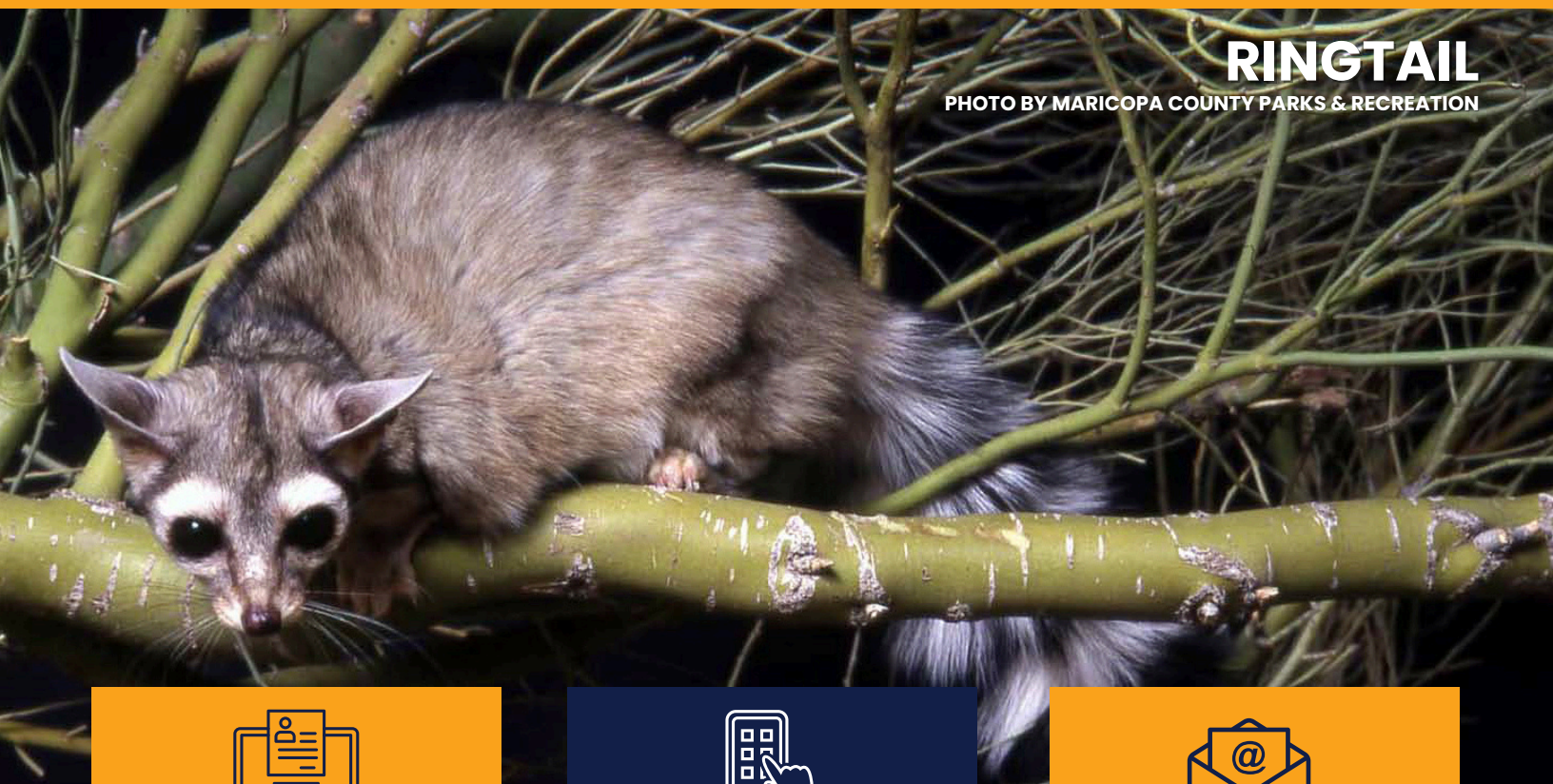


JANUARY

ECO-BLITZ CHALLENGE

RINGTAIL

PHOTO BY MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION



**ECO-BLITZ
REGISTRATION**

<https://bit.ly/ECO-BlitzWebsite>



**LEARN ABOUT THE
INATURALIST PROGRAM**

<https://bit.ly/MCParksNaturalist>



QUESTIONS

[@maricopacountyparks](https://maricopacountyparks)
[@maricopa.gov](https://maricopa.gov)

RINGTAIL



RINGTAIL
PHOTO BY SUE CARNAHAN,
INATURALIST

This month, we are learning all about the Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*). Here are some fun and key facts:

- Sometimes called ringtail cats, they aren't felines at all but are closely related to the raccoon, coatimundi, and kinkajou family (*Procyonid*).
- Ringtails have sharp, semi-retractable claws.
- Primarily carnivores, these elusive nocturnal mammals prey on lizards, snakes, smaller mammals, and insects like grasshoppers, crickets, and scorpions. But will also eat fruit, nuts, and berries.^{2,3}

Sources:

- 1 <https://ielc.libguides.com/sdzg/factsheets/ringtail/distribution>
- 2 <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/ringtail>
- 3 <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/rtail/>
- 4 <https://www.oregonzoo.org/animals/kinkajou>