

**GUIDE TO THE NONGAME  
MAMMALS OF  
NORTHWEST MINNESOTA-  
REGION 1S**



**MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

## Guide to the Nongame Mammals of Northwest Minnesota

## Region 1 - South

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This preliminary guide has been prepared as a reference to the occurrence and distribution of mammals of Region 1 South in northwest Minnesota. Taxonomy and identification are based on Jones, Carter, and Genoway (1975). Identification marks are described in Burt and Grossenheider (1964).

Game mammals have not been included in this summary.

Counties in this region are Becker, Clay, Wilkin, Ottertail, Traverse, Grant, Douglas, Stevens, and Pope. Figure 1 is a map of Region 1 South.

Table 1 is a list of nongame mammals from this region.

TABLE 1 - Species list of nongame mammals from Region 1 South

Marsupials

Virginia opossum - A \*

Insectivores

Masked shrew  
Arctic shrew  
Northern water shrew (?)  
Short-tailed shrew  
Pygmy shrew (?)  
Starnosed mole

Bats

Big brown bat (?)  
Silver-haired bat  
Red bat  
Hoary bat  
Little brown bat  
Keen's little brown bat (?)

Carnivores

Short-tailed weasel  
Least weasel (?)  
Long-tailed weasel \*  
Spotted skunk \*  
Striped skunk  
Wolverine - A  
Coyote  
Cougar (?)  
Gray Wolf (?)

Squirrels

Woodchuck  
Richardson's ground squirrel  
Franklin's ground squirrel  
Thirteen-lined ground squirrel  
Eastern chipmunk  
Least chipmunk (?)  
Red squirrel  
Northern flying squirrel (?)

Other Rodents

Plains pocket gopher  
Plains pocket mouse (?)  
Western harvest mouse (?)  
Deer mouse  
White-footed mouse  
Northern grasshopper mouse \*  
Gapper's Red-backed vole  
Meadow vole  
Prairie vole (?)  
Meadow jumping mouse  
House mouse E  
Norway rat E  
Northern bog lemming (?)  
Southern bog lemming (?)  
Porcupine

Ungulates

American Elk - X

### Key

- \* - Priority species, reports needed
- \*\* - Priority species, known only in this region
- E - Exotic species
- ? - Hypothetical species, reports needed
- A - Accidental species
- X - Extirpated species

A total of 31 nongame mammal species are found in Region 1 South. There is an apparent need for small mammal studies here, because many species are hypothetical: big brown bat, Keen's little brown bat, least weasel, least chipmunk, northern flying squirrel, plains pocket mouse, western harvest mouse, southern bog lemming, northern bog lemming, pygmy shrew, northern water shrew, and prairie vole. The cougar is hypothetical, and the timber wolf may occasionally occur here. American Elk are extirpated.

The house mouse and Norway rat are the only exotic species which have become established.

### Priority Species

No mammal species are found only in this region of Minnesota.

Other priority species for which more data is needed are the long-tailed weasel, spotted skunk, and northern grasshopper mouse.

### Threatened and Endangered Species

There are no threatened or endangered nongame mammal species in this region.

### Data Collection

If you encounter any new county records, be sure to record the date, county, township, range, section number (or distance and direction from the nearest town) and habitat in which the animal was found. Note all identifying features which distinguish that species from similar ones. Photographs or plaster casts of tracks are important for rare species like cougars. Small mammal skulls should be retained to help verify new county records when animals are trapped.

Records should be sent to the Nongame Supervisor, Department of Natural Resources, Box 7, Centennial Bldg., 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55155.

### County Records

County records for this region are given in Table 2.

TABLE 2 - Nongame Mammals of Region I South

	BECKER	CLAY	WILKIN	OTTERTAIL	TRAVERSE	GRANT	DOUGLAS	STEVENS	POPE
Virginia Opossum							X4		
Masked Shrew			X6+	X6+					
Arctic Shrew				X6+					
Northern Water Shrew									
Pygmy Shrew									
Short-tailed shrew	X6-	X6-	X6+	X6+		X6-			X4
Starnosed mole	X4, 6+								
Little Brown Bat		X6-							
Keen's Little Brown Bat									
Silver-Haired Bat	X6-	X6-							
Big Brown Bat									
Red Bat		X6-				X6-			
Hoary Bat		X6-							
Short-tailed Weasel	X6+		X4	X6+					
Least Weasel									
Long-tailed Weasel	X4								X6-
Wolverine	X4								
Spotted Skunk				X6-		X6+	X6-	X6-	
Striped Skunk	X6-	X6-	X6-	X6-	X6-	X6-	X6-	X6-	X4, 6-
Coyote	X6- 4	X4		X6- 4	X6+	X4	X4	X4	X6+ 4
Gray Wolf									
Cougar	X6-			X6-					
Woodchuck							X6+		X4

	BECKER	CLAY	WILKIN	OTTERTAIL	TRAVERSE	GRANT	DOUGLAS	STEVENS	POPE
Richardson's ground squirrel				X8	X4, 6-				
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel			X6+		X6+				X4
Franklin's ground squirrel		X6+			X6+				X6+
Eastern Chipmunk			X6-	X6+	X6-				X4
Least Chipmunk									
Red Squirrel				X6+					X4
Northern Flying Squirrel									
Plains Pocket Gopher			X6-	X6+	X6+				X6+
Plains Pocket Mouse									
Western Harvest Mouse									
Deer Mouse			X6+	X6+	X6+				
White-footed Mouse				X6+	X6+				
Northern Grasshopper Mouse		X8		X6+	X6+	X8		X8	
Southern Bog Lemming									
Northern Bog Lemming									
Gapper's Red-backed Vole				X6+	X6+				
Meadow Vole	X6+		X6+	X6+	X6+				
Prairie Vole									
Norway Rat			X6+						
House Mouse				X6+					
Meadow Jumping Mouse			X6+	X6+	X6+				
Porcupine	X6-								
American Elk		X4							

LITERATURE CITED

- X-3 Burt, W.H. and R.P. Grossenheider 1964. A field guide to the Mammals. 2nd Ed. Houghton Mifflon Co. Boston. 284 pp.
- X-4 Department of Natural Resources Wildlife data files of wildlife breeding and distribution records. Section of Wildlife. St. Paul.
- X-6 Gunderson, H.L. and J.R. Beer 1953. The Mammals of Minnesota. Univ. Minn. Press, Mpls. 190 pp. (6+ = specimens seen, 6- = authentic records)
- X-8 Heaney, L.R. and E.C. Birney 1975. Comments on the distribution and natural history of some mammals in Minnesota. Canadian Field Nat. 89:29-34
- X-9 Jones, J.K. Jr., D.C. Carter and H.H. Genoways 1975. Rev. checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico. Occ. Pap. Mus. Texas. Tech. Univ. 28:1-14