

**GUIDE TO THE NONGAME**

**MAMMALS OF**

**NORTHEAST MINNESOTA-**

**REGION 2**



**MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES**



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Guide to the Nongame Mammals of Northeast Minnesota

Region 2

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This preliminary guide has been prepared as a reference to the occurrence and distribution of mammals of Region 2 in Northeast Minnesota. Taxonomy and identification are based on Jones, et al., (1975). \*Identification marks are described in Burt and Grossenheider (1964).

Game mammals have not been included in this summary.

Counties in this region are Carlton, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Itasca, and Koochiching. Figures 1 through 4 are maps of Region 2.

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

TABLE 1 - Species List of Nongame Mammals from Region 2

Marsupials

Virginia opossum - A(Possibly introduced?)

Insectivores

Masked shrew  
Arctic shrew  
Northern water shrew  
Pygmy shrew  
Short-tailed shrew  
Star-nosed mole

Bats

Little brown bat  
Keen's little brown bat\*  
Silver-haired bat  
Big brown bat\*  
Red bat  
Hoary bat

Carnivores

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

Squirrels

Woodchuck  
Thirteen-lined ground squirrel  
Franklin's ground squirrel  
Eastern chipmunk  
Least chipmunk  
Red squirrel  
Southern flying squirrel\*  
Northern flying squirrel\*



Other Rodents

Deer mouse  
White-footed mouse  
Southern bog lemming  
Northern bog lemming\*\*  
Gapper's red-backed vole  
Heather vole\*\*  
Meadow vole  
Rock vole\*\*  
Meadow jumping mouse  
Woodland jumping mouse  
Porcupine  
Norway rat - E  
House mouse - E

Ungulates

Caribou (X)\*  
American elk (X)

Key

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

A total of 41 nongame mammal species are found in Region 2. Hypothetical species needing confirmation are the wolverine, cougar.

Woodland caribou are extirpated, but the Department of Natural Resources is currently studying the feasibility of reintroducing woodland caribou in their historic range.

The house mouse and Norway rat are the only exotic species. There is a DNR record of a nutria being trapped in Itasca County in 1963 but it probably escaped from captivity.

Priority Species

The rock vole and heather vole are only found in this region of Minnesota. The marten is found primarily in this region.

Other priority species on which more data needed are the Keen's little brown bat, big brown bat, least weasel, long-tailed weasel, spotted skunk, gray wolf, southern flying squirrel, and northern flying squirrel.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The gray wolf is officially listed as threatened.

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.

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 2

	CARLTON	AITKIN	ST. LOUIS	LAKE	COOK	ITASCA	KOOCHECHING
Virginia Opossum			X4				
Masked Shrew	X2,6+		X1,6+	X1,2,6+	X6+,11	X6+	X2,6+
Arctic Shrew	X2,6+		X1,6+	X1,2	X6+,11	X6-	X2
Northern Water Shrew			X6+	X6+	X6+,11	X6-	
Pygmy Shrew	X2		X1,8	X1,2,6+	X11		X2,6+
Short-tailed Shrew	X2		X1,6+	X1,2,6+	X6+,11	X6+	X2,6+
Star-nosed Mole	X2,6+	X6+	X6+	X6+	X6+,11		X6+
Little Brown Bat			X6+	X6-	X11		
Keen's Little Brown Bat			X6+		X11		
Silver-Haired Bat					X11		
Big Brown Bat					X11		
Red Bat	X6-	X8			X8,11	X8	
Hoary Bat					X8, 11		X8
Marten		X4		X4	X4,11		X4
Short-tailed Weasel	X2,6+	X6-	X1,4,6+	X6+	X6+,11		X2,6+
Least Weasel					X11		
Long-tailed Weasel			X6+		X6-,11		
Wolverine			X4		X11		
Spotted Skunk					X11		
Striped Skunk	X6-	X6-	X1,4,6-	X4		X6-	X6-
Coyote	X4,6-	X4,6-	X1,4,6-	X4,6-	X4,6+ 11	X4,6+	X4,6+
Gray Wolf			X4,6+	X4,6+	X4,6+ 11		X6-
Cougar		X4	X1	X4	X4	X4	

	CARLTON	AITKIN	ST. LOUIS	LAKE	COOK	ITASCA	KOOCHICHING
Woodchuck	X6+	X4,6-	X4,6-	X4,6-	X6+,11	X4	X4
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	X6+		X4			X4	X4,6-
Franklin's Ground Squirrel	X2,4	X4	X1,4			X4	X2
Eastern Chipmunk	X2,6+		X1,4,6+	X1,2,6+	X6+,11	X4	X2,6+
Least Chipmunk	X6+		X1,6+	X1,4,6+	X6+,11	X6-	X2,6+
Red Squirrel	X2,6+	X6+	X1,4,6+	X2,4,6+	X6+,11	X4	X2,6+
Southern Flying Squirrel		X6,8	X6+,8(?)				
Northern Flying Squirrel	X6+		X6+	X6+	X11	X6-	X2
Deer Mouse	X2,6+		X1,6+	X1,2,6+	X6+,11		X2,6+
White-footed Mouse							X6+
Southern Bog Lemming	X2		X1,6+	X1,2,6+	X8,11	X8	X2,8
Northern Bog Lemming							X8
Gapper's Red-backed Vole	X2,6+		X1,6+	X1,2,6+	X6+,11	X6+	X2,6+
Heather-vole			X1		X11		
Meadow Vole	X2,6+		X1,6+	X1,2,6+	X6+,11	X6+	X6+
Rock Vole			X1,6-	X1	X11		
Norway Rat	X6+				X11		
House Mouse	X6+				X11		X6+
Meadow Jumping Mouse	X2,6+		X1,6+	X1,2,6+	X6+,11	X6+	X2
Woodland Jumping Mouse	X2,6+		X1,6+	X1,6+	X6+,11		
Porcupine	X4,6+,8	X4,6-,8	X1,4,6+	X6+	X11	X4,6-	
American Elk							
Woodland Caribou					X6+		

LITERATURE CITED

- X-1 Batten, Elizabeth 1979. Small mammals of the regional copper-nickel study area. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board. Mimeo. 40 pp.
- X-2 Birney, E.C. and Gerda E. Nordquist 1978. The importance of peatland habitats to small mammals in Minnesota. Mimeo. 52 pp.
- X-3 Burt, W.H. and R.P. Grossenheider 1964. A field guide to the Mammals. 2nd Ed. Houghton Mifflon Co. Boston. 284 pp.
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- 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
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