

# GUIDE TO THE NONGAME

## MAMMALS OF

## SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA-

## REGION 4E



MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES

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Guide to the Nongame Mammals of South Central Minnesota

Region 4 East

By Carrol Henderson and Julie Reitter

This preliminary guide has been prepared as a reference to the occurrence and distribution of nongame mammals of Region 4 East in south central Minnesota. Taxonomy is based on Jones, et al., (1975). Identification marks are described in Burt and Grossenheider (1964).

Game mammals have not been included in this survey.

Counties in this region are Waseca, Blue Earth, LeSueur, Nicollet, Sibley, Brown, and McLeod. Figure 1 is a map of Region 4 East.

Table 1 is a species list of the nongame mammals of Region 4 East.

TABLE 1 - Nongame Mammals of Region 4 East

Marsupials

Virginia opossum

Insectivores

Masked shrew

Pygmy shrew (?)

Short-tailed shrew

Least shrew (?)

Eastern mole (?)

Bats

Little brown bat

Keen's little brown bat\*

Silver-haired bat (?)

Eastern pipistrelle\*

Big brown bat\*

Red bat

Hoary bat

Carnivores

Short-tailed weasel (?)

Least weasel (\*)

Long-tailed weasel\*

Carnivores (cont.)

Spotted skunk\*

Striped skunk

Coyote

Squirrels

Woodchuck

Thirteen-lined ground squirrel

Franklin's ground squirrel

Eastern chipmunk (?)

Southern flying squirrel\*

Northern flying squirrel (\*)

Red 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 (?)

Other Rodents (cont.)

Norway rat (E)  
House mouse (E)  
Meadow jumping mouse

Ungulates

American elk (X)

Key

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

A total of 27 nongame mammal species are found in Region 4 East. The pygmy shrew, least shrew, eastern mole, silver-haired bat, short-tailed weasel, least weasel, eastern chipmunk, northern flying squirrel, plains pocket mouse, and northern grasshopper mouse are hypothetical species needing documentation.

The house mouse and Norway rat are the only two exotic species.

Priority species

There are no species which are found only in Region 4 East. Priority species for which more data is needed are the Keen's little brown bat, Eastern pipistrelle, big brown bat, long-tailed weasel, spotted skunk, and southern flying squirrel.

Threatened and Endangered Species

There are no officially threatened or endangered nongame mammals in Region 4 East.

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 large mammals like cougars. Skulls of small mammal specimens should be retained for documentation of new county records when studies result in the collection of specimens.

Mammal 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.

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TABLE 2 - County Records of Nongame Mammals in Region 4 East

	WASECA	BLUE EARTH	LE SUEUR	NICOLLET	SIBLEY	BROWN	MC LEOD
Virginia Opossum		X4,5,6-		X6+,7		X4	X6-
Masked Shrew							X6+
Pygmy Shrew							
Short-tailed Shrew						X5	
Eastern Mole							
Little Brown Bat				X5,6+			
Keen's Little Brown Bat				X5,6+			
Silver-Haired Bat							
Eastern Pipistrelle				X5,6+			
Big Brown Bat				X6+		X5	
Red Bat		X6-					
Hoary Bat	X6+						
Short-tailed Weasel							
Least Weasel							
Long-tailed Weasel		X6+					
Spotted Skunk				X4,6+			
Striped Skunk		X6-		X6+	X6-		
Coyote		X4,6-			X4		X4
Woodchuck				X6+			X4,6+
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	X5,6-	X5	X5	X5	X5	X5	X5,6-
Franklin's Ground Squirrel	X6-	X6-	X6-		X4		
Eastern Chipmunk							
Red Squirrel		X4				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-5 Ernst, C.H. and L. French 1977. Mammals of Southwestern Minnesota. J. Minn. Acad. Sci. 43(1):28-31
- 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