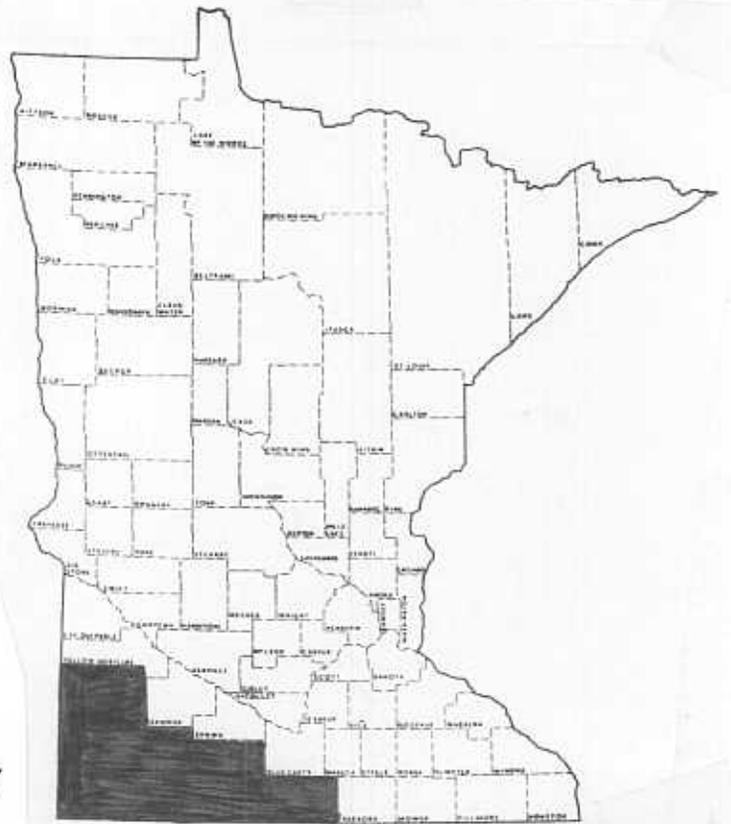
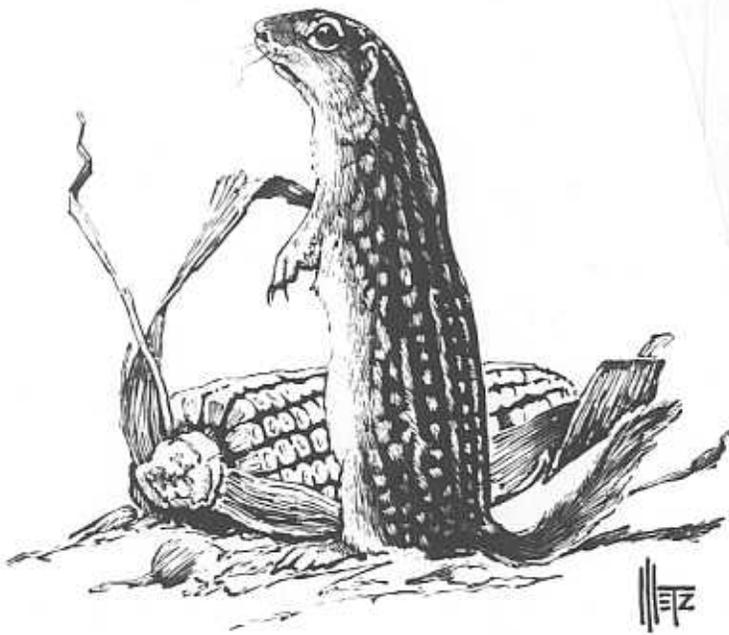


GUIDE TO THE NONGAME

MAMMALS OF

SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA-

REGION 4S



**MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Guide to the Nongame Mammals of Southwest Minnesota

Region 4 South

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 South in southwest Minnesota. Taxonomy is based on Jones, et al., (1975). Identification marks are described in Burt and Grossenheider (1964).

Game mammals are not included in this survey.

Counties included in this region are Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Watonwan, Lincoln, and Lyon. Figure 1 is a map of Region 4 South.

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

TABLE 1 - Nongame Mammals of Region 4 South

Marsupials

Virginia opossum

Insectivores

Masked 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*
Spotted skunk*
Striped skunk
Coyote
Cougar (A)*

Squirrels

Woodchuck
Thirteen-lined ground squirrel
Richardson's ground squirrel
Franklin's ground squirrel
Eastern chipmunk
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
Norway rat (E)
House mouse (E)
Meadow jumping mouse

Ungulates

American elk (X)*
Pronghorn (A)*

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 33 nongame mammals are found in Region 4 South. The least shrew, silver-haired bat, eastern pipistrelle, hoary bat, and Gapper's red-backed vole are hypothetical and need documentation to verify their presence.

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

The American elk is extirpated from this region.

Priority Species

There are no species which are found only in Region 4 South. Priority species on which more data is needed are the Keen's little brown bat, big brown bat, least weasel, long-tailed weasel, spotted skunk, cougar, northern grasshopper mouse, and pronghorn.

Threatened and Endangered Species

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

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.

-4-
TABLE 2 - County Records of Nongame Mammals of Region 4 South

	ROCK	NOBLES	JACKSON	MARTIN	FARIBAULT	PIPESTONE	MURRAY	COTTONWOOD	WATONWAN	LINCOLN	LYON
Virginia Opossum	X4	X4, 5,6-	X4,5	X4	X4	X4		X4	X4		X5,7
Masked Shrew			X5, 6+	X5		X5		X5		X5, 6+	X5
Least Shrew											
Short-tailed Shrew	X5, 6+	X5	X5, 6+	X5, 6+		X5, 6+				X5, 6+	X5, 6+
Eastern Mole		X5, 8					X4,5		X4		X5
Little Brown Bat											X5, 6-
Keen's Little Brown Bat											X5
Silver-Haired Bat											
Eastern Pipistrelle											
Big Brown Bat				X5							X5
Red Bat										X8	
Hoary Bat											
Short-tailed Weasel								X5, 6+	X5, 6+		X4
Least Weasel						X5, 6+			X4		X4
Long-tailed Weasel			X4,5, 6+	X4						X4,5, 6+	X4
Spotted Skunk	X4		X5,6-	X4,5 6-	X4			X4	X5, 6+		
Striped Skunk	X5 6-	X4,5 6-	X5 6-	X5 6-	X5 6-	X5	X4 5	X5	X5	X5	X4,5 6-
Coyote				X6-		X5 6-				X5	X5 6-
Cougar			X4								X-6
Woodchuck			X4	X4			X5			X4	X4 5
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	X5,8		X8			X4				X4,5 6+	X4,5 6-
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	X5, 6+	X4 5	X5	X5	X5	X5	X4 5	X5 6+	X5	X5 6+	X5
Franklin's Ground 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.