

**GUIDE TO THE NONGAME
MAMMALS OF
SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA-
REGION 4W**



**MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Guide to the Nongame Mammals of Southwest Minnesota

Region 4 West

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This preliminary guide has been prepared as a reference to the occurrence and distribution of nongame mammals of Region 4 West 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 in this region are Redwood, Renville, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Swift, Big Stone, and Meeker. Figure 1 is a map of Region 4 West.

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

TABLE 1 - Nongame Mammals of Region 4 West

Marsupials

Virginia opossum (A)

Insectivores

Masked shrew

Arctic shrew

Northern water shrew (?)

Pygmy shrew (?)

Short-tailed 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

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

Norway rat (E)

House mouse (E)

Meadow jumping mouse

Ungulates

Pronghorn (A)*

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 37 nongame mammal species are found in Region 4 West. The northern water shrew, pygmy shrew, Keen's little brown bat, eastern pipistrelle, and northern flying squirrel are hypothetical and need documentation to verify their presence.

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

The American elk is extirpated from this region.

Priority Species

There are no species which are found only in Region 4 West. Priority species on which more data is needed are the 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 West.

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.

TABLE 2 - Nongame Mammals of Region 4 West

	REDWOOD	RENVILLE	KANDIYOHI	LAC QUI PANLE	YELLOW MEDICINE	CHIPPEWA	SWIFT	EIG STONE	MEEKER
Virginia Opossum	X5								
Masked Shrew	X5	X5	X5	X5,6+				X5	
Arctic Shrew									X8
Northern Water Shrew									
Pygmy Shrew									
Short-tailed Shrew	X5	X5	X7	X5,6+	X5		X5,6+	X5,6-	
Eastern Mole	X5	X8							
Little Brown Bat				X4					
Keen's Little Brown Bat									
Silver-Haired Bat			X5,7						
Eastern Pipistrelle									
Big Brown Bat	X5		X7						
Red Bat				X5,6-					X5,6
Hoary Bat								X5	X5,6+
Short-tailed Weasel	X5	X7			X5,6-				
Least Weasel		X7	X4						
Long-tailed Weasel	X4		X4	X4		X4	X4,7	X4	
Spotted Skunk	X5,6-			X5,6-		X5,6-	X5,6-	X5,6-	X5,6+
Striped Skunk	X5	X4,5 7	X5,6-	X5,6-	X5,6-	X5,6-	X5,6-	X4,5 6-	X5
Coyote	X4			X5	X4				
Cougar					X4				
Woodchuck			X4 7	X4		X4			
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	X4,5			X4,5 6+	X4,5 6-		X4	X4,5	

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-7 Hazard, E.B. 1978. Mammals that occur, or might occur, in or near Kandiyohi County, with notes on locality records. Mimeo. 2 pp.
- 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