

**GUIDE TO THE NONGAME**

**MAMMALS OF**

**METROPOLITAN MINNESOTA-**

**REGION 6**



**MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

## Guide to the Nongame Mammals of Metropolitan Minnesota

## Region 6

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 6 in the twin cities metropolitan area of Minnesota. Taxonomy is based on Jones, et al., (1975). Identification marks are described in Burt and Grossenheider (1964). Figure 1 is a map of Region 6.

Game mammals are not included in this survey.

Counties in this region are Scott, Dakota, Carver, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, and Anoka. Figure 1 is a map of Region 6.

Table 1 is a list of the nongame mammals of Region 6.

TABLE 1 - Nongame Mammals of Region 6

Marsupials

Virginia opossum\*\*\*

Insectivores

Masked shrew  
Arctic shrew  
Northern water shrew  
Pygmy shrew  
Short-tailed shrew  
Star-nosed mole  
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\*  
Wolverine (A)\*  
Spotted skunk\*  
Striped skunk  
Coyote\*\*\*

Squirrels

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

Other Rodents

Plains pocket gopher  
Plains pocket mouse  
Deer mouse

Other Rodents (cont.)

White-footed mouse  
Southern bog lemming (?)  
Gapper's red-backed vole  
Meadow vole  
Prairie vole  
Norway rat (E)  
House mouse (E)  
Meadow jumping mouse  
Porcupine

Ungulates

American elk (X)\*

Key

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

A total of 39 nongame mammals are recorded for this region. The least weasel, least chipmunk, and southern bog lemming are hypothetical species needing verification if they are present.

The house mouse and Norway rat are the only exotic species. A nutria was trapped on December 1, 1963 in Dakota County but it was probably an escaped individual.

The American elk is extirpated from this region.

Priority Species

There are no mammals which are found only in Region 6. Priority species include the Keen's little brown bat, eastern pipistrelle, big brown bat, long-tailed weasel, wolverine, spotted skunk, southern flying squirrel, and northern flying squirrel.

Locally uncommon mammals include the Virginia opossum, coyote, Franklin's ground squirrel, star-nosed mole, and porcupine.

Threatened and Endangered Species

There are no threatened or endangered nongame mammals in Region 6.

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 6 .

	SCOTT	DAKOTA	CARVER	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	WASHINGTON	ANOKA
Virginia Opossum		X4		X6-	X4		
Masked Shrew		X6-		X6+			X2,4, 6+
Arctic Shrew			X8	X6-			X2,6+ 8
Northern Water Shrew							X6+
Pygmy Shrew		X6+					X2,4, 6+,8
Short-tailed Shrew		X6-		X6+	X6+	X6+	X2,6+
Star-nosed Mole							X4,8
Eastern Mole		X6-		X6+	X6+		
Little Brown Bat		X6+		X6+	X6+	X6-	
Keen's Little Brown Bat					X6-		
Silver-Haired Bat				X8	X6+		X6+
Eastern Pipistrelle	X6-			X6+	X6+	X6-	
Big Brown Bat		X6+		X6+	X6+	X6+	
Red Bat			X8	X6+	X6+	X6+	
Hoary Bat		X6-		X6+	X6+,8		
Short-tailed Weasel				X6+	X6+	X4	X2,4, 6+
Least Weasel							
Long-tailed Weasel	X6+	X6-		X4,6+	X6+		X4,6+
Wolverine						X4	
Spotted Skunk		X4		X4,6+	X6+	X4	X4,6-
Striped Skunk	X6-		X4,6-	X4,6-	X4,6+	X6-	X4+,6
Coyote					X4		
Woodchuck				X6+	X6+	X4	X6+



LITERATURE CITED

- X-2 Birney, E.C. and Gerda E. Nordquist 1978. The importance of peat-land habitats to small mammals in Minnesota. Mimeo. 52 pp.
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- 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

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