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MONTANA MAMMALS

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MONTANA FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT
JANUARY, 1972

STATE DOCUMENTS



Ground Squirrel . . . Photo by Gerry Atwell

The following list of Montana Mammals was prepared by Dr. Philip Wright, Professor of Zoology, University of Montana, Missoula. It is reprinted here, by permission, from the 1959-60 Montana Almanac.

Revisions from the Almanac have been made by Dr. Wright and by Dr. R. S. Hoffmann in order to make the listing current.

The University of Montana Zoology Department maintains a collection of over 10,000 mammal skins and skulls. This includes specimens of all but one of the species listed for Montana. The staff would be happy to identify rare mammals sent in by interested residents and would appreciate donations of any of the species indicated as rare. A "Guide to Montana Mammals," by R. S. Hoffmann and D. L. Pattie is available at cost from the Associated Students' Store, University of Montana, Missoula.

The nature of many mammals is such that most of us never become familiar with even those that share our own environment. Night-flying bats, the hungry little shrew, the pika stacking hay in his rocky retreat are examples of unfamiliar animals.

Man himself is a mammal; consequently, he has much in common with the other mammal members. All mammals have similarities that set them off from the rest of the animal world. Among other things they all possess hair; nails, claws or hooves; they are warm-blooded; the young are born alive and are suckled.

MONTANA MAMMALS

Classified According to Montana Law

G - - - Game Animal

~~P - - - Predatory Animal~~

F - - - Furbearer

MAR 20 1969
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Common Name	Scientific Name	Distribution and Occurrence
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Dry woods, throughout the state.
Vagrant Shrew	<i>Sorex vagrans</i>	Moist woods and meadows in western portion, common.
Merriam Shrew	<i>Sorex merriami</i>	Sagebrush and grasslands in eastern counties, quite rare.
Dwarf Shrew	<i>Sorex nanus</i>	Known from several high mountain ranges in the center of the state.
Northern Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Banks of fast streams and shores of high altitude lakes in mountains.
Preble Shrew	<i>Sorex preblei</i>	Known from a few specimens in central and eastern Montana, very rare.
Pigmy Shrew	<i>Microsorex hoyi</i>	Dry woods of northwestern Montana only, rare.
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Throughout the state, common.
Yuma Bat	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Throughout the state, less common than above.
Little Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Throughout the state, fairly common.
California Brown Bat	<i>Myotis californicus</i>	Known from Ravalli county.
Long-legged Bat	<i>Myotis volans</i>	Higher elevations in western half of the state.
Say Bat	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Most of the state.
Fringed Bat	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Very rare; specimens from Lewis and Clark Caverns and Ravalli County.
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Throughout the state, may hibernate in buildings during winter.
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Deep woods in summer, probably occurs throughout the state in migration.
Spotted Bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Known only from single specimen obtained at Billings.
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>	Known from several caves and mines in central and western Montana.
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Wood areas, rather common.
G—Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Forested areas, rather common.
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Remote wilderness areas especially at high elevations, rare.
F—Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	Probably extinct, but successfully transplanted from British Columbia in 1958-59 near Holland Lake, Missoula County, and Pink Creek, Lincoln County.
F—Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	Most higher mountain regions, common.
P—Short-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Generally in forested areas, common.
P—Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Throughout the state, common.
P—Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Eastern half of the state, rare.
F—Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	Marsh areas and stream banks throughout the state, common.
Black-footed Ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Eastern part of the state in prairie dog colonies, extremely rare.
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Wilder portions of western mountains, rather rare.
P—Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Throughout the state in farm land and open country, common.
P—Spotted Skunk	<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Known only from specimens obtained in Ravalli county, and in south central Montana.

Threatened

Endangered

Embryology

Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Throughout the state, common.
F—River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	On large streams, mostly in western portion, rare.
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Recent invader from both east and west, now common in large river valleys throughout the state.
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Formerly rare through the state but now fairly common in many areas.
Swift Fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	Originally common in eastern counties, now probably extinct.
P—Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Throughout the state, common.
W—Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Originally present throughout the state, now confined to Glacier National Park and vicinity, rare.
G—Cougar	<i>Felis concolor</i>	Western counties, rare.
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Heavily forested areas in western part of state, rare.
P—Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	In many areas in state, common.
Yellow-bellied Marmot	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	Rocky areas and mountains of most of the western part of the state, common.
Hoary Marmot	<i>Marmota caligata</i>	Above timberline in Glacier National Park and neighboring high mountain ranges, rare.
Columbian Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus columbianus</i>	Western one-third of the state, common.
Richardson Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i>	Eastern two-thirds of the state, common.
Uinta Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus armatus</i>	Yellowstone Park and surrounding areas, common.
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus tridecemlineatus</i>	Grassland in eastern and central areas.
Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>	Rocky areas in the mountains of central and western regions, common.
Black-tailed Prairie Dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Formerly abundant in eastern Montana, now much reduced by poisoning.
White-tailed Prairie Dog	<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	Known only in Carbon county.
Least Chipmunk	<i>Eutamias minimus</i>	Primarily in sagebrush areas in eastern and central Montana, common.
Yellow Pine Chipmunk	<i>Eutamias amoenus</i>	Lower elevations in western Montana, common.
Rufous-tailed Chipmunk	<i>Eutamias ruficaudus</i>	Higher elevations in northwestern mountains, common.
Uinta Chipmunk	<i>Eutamias umbrinus</i>	Higher elevations in the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park.
Red or Pine Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Coniferous forest in western counties, common.
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Dense forest in western counties, common.
Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	In towns and river bottoms along the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers.
Northern Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	Throughout the state, common.
Wyoming Pocket Mouse	<i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Dry areas in eastern counties.
Great Basin Pocket Mouse	<i>Perognathus parvus</i>	Known only from Beaverhead county.
Hispid Pocket Mouse	<i>Perognathus hispidus</i>	Known only from extreme southeastern Carter county.
F—Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Along streams and lakes throughout the state, common.
Ord Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	Sandy soil and sagebrush in the eastern half of the state.
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	Grasslands of eastern Montana.
Western Harvest Mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	Grasslands of eastern Montana.
Western Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Throughout the state in virtually all habitats, common.
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	Eastern Montana.
Bushy-tailed Wood Rat	<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>	Deserted cabins in Rocky Mountain areas, common.
Northern Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys borealis</i>	Only in wet meadows of west side of Glacier National Park, rare.
Mountain Phenacomys	<i>Phenacomys intermedius</i>	Mostly near timberline in high mountain ranges.
Red-backed Vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>	Moist coniferous forests in western half of state, common.

Water Vole	<i>Arvicola richardsoni</i>	Stream banks at high elevations in the mountains.
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Wet meadows throughout the state, common.
Longtailed Vole	<i>Microtus longicaudus</i>	Wet woods of central and western Montana, common.
Mountain Vole	<i>Microtus montanus</i>	Dry grasslands of western and central Montana, common.
Prairie Vole	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	Dry grasslands of eastern Montana, common.
Sagebrush Mouse	<i>Lagurus curtatus</i>	Sagebrush areas in eastern and central mountains, rare.
F—Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Ponds and streams throughout the state, common.
Rocky Mountain Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus princeps</i>	High mountain meadows and wet woods near water in the western half of the state.
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Known only in eastern Montana.
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Around human habitations throughout the state, common.
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Known only in some of the cities.
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Throughout the state, common.
Nutria	<i>Myocaster coypus</i>	Introduced; once found in the Bitterroot Valley; may still occur near Billings.
Pika	<i>Ochotona princeps</i>	Slide rock areas in mountains, common.
Snowshoe Rabbit	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Forested areas in western half of the state, common.
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Open areas throughout the state, common.
Black-tailed Jack Rabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	Known only in Beaverhead County.
Mountain Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	Lower elevations in Montana, common.
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floidanus</i>	Found only along the extreme eastern border of the state.
Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonni</i>	Eastern counties, common.
Pigmy Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus idahoensis</i>	Known only in Grasshopper Drainage in Beaverhead County.
G—Elk	<i>Cervus canadensis</i>	Certain suitable areas in central and western Montana, common.
G—White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Forested areas in western Montana and brushy river bottoms in eastern Montana, common.
G—Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Suitable habitats throughout the state, common.
G—Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>	Suitable areas in western half of the state, fairly common.
G—Woodland Caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Formerly occurred in Lincoln County, now enter the state from British Columbia, but only rarely and in winter.
G—Pronghorn Antelope	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Most of eastern and central Montana, common.
G—Bison	<i>Bison bison</i>	Formerly occurred throughout the state, now confined to Yellowstone National Park, the National Bison Range, and in scattered bands on private ranches.
G—Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	In scattered bands in the western half of the state, reintroduced into several mountain ranges.
G—Mountain Goat	<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>	High mountain ranges of northwestern Montana, successfully transplanted in several mountain ranges in central Montana.