



- _____ Appalachian Cottontail U
Sylvilagus obscurus
- _____ Eastern Cottontail C
Sylvilagus floridana

ORDER CARNIVORA-Carnivores

Family Canidae- Wolves, Dogs and Foxes

- _____ Red Fox C
Vulpes vulpes
- _____ Gray Fox C
Urocyon cinereoargenteus
- _____ Coyote R
Canis latrans
- _____ Feral or domestic Dog E
Canis familiaris

Family Ursidae-Bears

- _____ Black Bear U
Ursus americanus

Family Procyonidae -Racoons and Ring-tails

- _____ Common Raccoon C
Procyon lotor

Family Mustelidae -Mustelids

- _____ Least Weasel U
Mustela nivalis
- _____ Long-tailed Weasel U
Mustela frenata
- _____ Mink U
Mustela vison
- _____ Fisher R
Martes pennanti
- _____ River Otter R
Lutra canadensis

Extirpated, Reintroduced

Family Mephitidae -Skunks

- _____ Eastern Spotted Skunk U
Spilogale putorius
- _____ Striped Skunk C
Mephitis mephitis

Family Felidae -Cats

- _____ Bobcat U
Lynx rufus

- _____ Mountain Lion or Cougar
Puma concolor Extirpated
- _____ Feral or house cat E
Felis catus

ORDER ARTIODACTYLA-Even-toed Ungulates

Family Suidae -Pigs

- _____ Wild Boar/ Feral Pig E
Sus scrofa

Family Cervidae -Cervids

- _____ White-tailed Deer C
Odocoileus virginianus

Family Bovidae -Goats

- _____ Domesticated Goat E
Capra hircus

*formerly *Zapodidae*, reduced to subfamily *Zapodinae*

***Suggested Literature
for further information:***

A Field Guide to the Mammals by William H. Burt and Richard P. Grossenheider

The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mammals by John O. Whitaker, Jr.

The Mammals of North America by Raymond Hall

Wild Mammals of North America edited by Joseph A. Chapman and George A. Feldhamer

Vertebrate Species of Concern in West Virginia, WVDNR publication

Taxonomic References:

Wilson & Reeder, 1993. *Mammalian Species of the World*, Smithsonian Institution Press

Jones, Clyde, et al. 1997. Occasional Papers of the Museum 173: Revised checklist of North American mammals north of Mexico, 1997.

Whitaker, John O., Jr. and William J. Hamilton, 1998. *Mammals of the Eastern United States*, 3rd ed.

West Virginia is home to at least 70 different wild mammals, with sporadic, although unconfirmed reports of the presence of one other mammal—the eastern cougar. Four of West Virginia’s mammals—the Virginia big-eared bat, Indiana bat, West Virginia northern flying squirrel and eastern cougar—are federally listed as endangered. Several additional species are rare in West Virginia and warrant close monitoring.

Three species of mammals no longer exist in West Virginia: the bison, elk and gray wolf. The last recorded bison in West Virginia was killed near Valley Head, Randolph County in 1825. Elk were reported near the headwaters of the Tygart and Greenbrier rivers as late as 1875, but were gone by 1890. Bounties were paid on wolves in West Virginia as late as 1822. The last recorded wolf was killed in 1900.

The beaver, fisher and river otter were also eradicated, but were reintroduced in the 1930s, 1969 and 1985, respectively. Wild boar were introduced into the state in 1971. Today a population of wild boar exists in Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties.

The black rat (roof rat), Norway rat and house mouse all came to the continental United States with settlers and traders. Dogs, cats and goats that have wandered off or were abandoned have formed wild, or feral, populations in portions of the state.

Just as man’s activities have resulted in the decline and extinction of some mammals, these activities also have resulted in increased abundance and range expansion of others. The opossum is more abundant and more widely distributed due to man’s activities, as are mammals that prefer farm and early successional habitats. The coyote has expanded its range eastward across the Mississippi River and now occurs throughout the Mountain State.



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Mammals Of West Virginia



A Field Checklist



Published by the
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Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section

Mammals of West Virginia Field Checklist

The classification of mammals used in this checklist conforms to accepted zoological nomenclature. Although the Latin names used for the orders, families, genera and species may appear formidable and unpronounceable, they are necessary because often an animal may be known by more than one common name. For example, the woodchuck is also called a ground hog or whistle pig. Subspecies names are not given in this listing.

This checklist was designed for use by students as an educational tool or by anyone interested in our state's mammals. The likelihood of finding each animal has been designated by one of the following letters:

- C = Common- *can be commonly seen in suitable habitat within current range*
- U = Uncommon - *seldom seen because habitat restricted and/or behavior secretive*
- R = Rare- *not often present even in suitable habitat*
- E = Exotic- *not native to North America*



ORDER DIDELPHIMORPHIA -Marsupials

Family Didelphidae -

New World Opossums

- _____ Virginia Opossum C
(*Didelphis virginiana*)

ORDER INSECTIVORA -Shrews and Moles

Family Soricidae-Shrews

- _____ Masked Shrew C
Sorex cinereus
- _____ Southeastern Shrew U
Sorex longirostris
- _____ Smoky Shrew U
Sorex fumeus
- _____ Long-tailed Shrew U
Sorex dispar
- _____ Water Shrew R
Sorex palustris
- _____ Pygmy Shrew U
Sorex hoyi
- _____ Northern Short-tailed Shrew C
Blarina brevicauda
- _____ Least Shrew R
Cryptotis parva

Family Talpidae -Moles

- _____ Hairy-tailed Mole C
Parascalops breweri
- _____ Eastern Mole U
Scalopus aquaticus
- _____ Star-nosed Mole U
Condylura cristata

ORDER CHIROPTERA -Bats

Family Vespertilionidae -Common Bats

- _____ Little Brown Myotis C
Myotis lucifugus
- _____ Northern Myotis U
Myotis septentrionalis
- _____ Indiana Myotis R
Myotis sodalis
- _____ Eastern Small-footed Myotis R
Myotis leibii
- _____ Gray Myotis R
Myotis grisescens
- _____ Silver-haired Bat U
Lasiurus noctivagans
- _____ Eastern Pipistrelle C
Pipistrellus subflavus
- _____ Big Brown Bat C
Eptesicus fuscus

- _____ Eastern Red Bat C
Lasiurus borealis
- _____ Hoary Bat U
Lasiurus cinereus
- _____ Evening Bat R
Nycticeius humeralis
- _____ Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat R
Corynorhinus rafinesquii
- _____ Virginia Big-eared Bat R
Corynorhinus townsendii

ORDER RODENTIA -Rodents

Family Sciuridae -Squirrels

- _____ Eastern Chipmunk C
Tamias striatus
- _____ Woodchuck/ Groundhog C
Marmota monax
- _____ Eastern Gray Squirrel C
Sciurus carolinensis
- _____ Fox Squirrel C
Sciurus niger
- _____ Red Squirrel C
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus
- _____ Southern Flying Squirrel C
Glaucomys volans
- _____ WV Northern Flying Squirrel R
Glaucomys sabrinus

Family Castoridae -Beavers

- _____ American Beaver C
Castor canadensis

Family Dipodidae -Jumping Mice*

- _____ Meadow Jumping Mouse U
Zapus hudsonius
- _____ Woodland Jumping Mouse C
Napaeozapus insignis

Family Muridae Mice and Rats

- Subfamily Sigmodontinae
(New World mice and rats)
- _____ Eastern Harvest Mouse R
Reithrodontomys humulis

- _____ Deer Mouse C
Peromyscus maniculatus
- _____ White-footed Mouse C
Peromyscus leucopus
- _____ Golden Mouse U
Ochrotomys nuttalli
- _____ Allegheny Wood Rat U
Neotoma magister
- Subfamily Arvicolinae
(Voles, lemmings, muskrats)
- _____ Southern Bog Lemming U
Synaptomys cooperi
- _____ Southern Red-backed Vole C
Clethrionomys gapperi
- _____ Meadow Vole C
Microtus pennsylvanicus
- _____ Rock Vole U
Microtus chrotorrhinus
- _____ Woodland Vole/ Pine Vole C
Microtus pinetorum
- _____ Prairie Vole R
Microtus ochrogaster
- _____ Muskrat C
Ondatra zibethicus
- Subfamily Murinae
(Old World mice and rats)
- _____ House Mouse E
Mus musculus
- _____ Norway Rat E
Rattus norvegicus
- _____ Black Rat E
Rattus rattus

Family Erethizontidae -New World Porcupines

- _____ Common Porcupine R
Erethizon dorsatum

ORDER LAGOMORPHA-Lagomorphs

Family Leporidae -Hares and Rabbits

- _____ Snowshoe Hare U
Lepus americanus



If you should find or observe a rare species or one not listed here, please contact the WVDNR's Wildlife Diversity Program, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241 or phone 304-637-0245.