

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.



***The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.***

10/2001 5M

# Mammals Of West Virginia



## A Field Checklist



Published by the  
West Virginia Division of  
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  
*Lasionycteris 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.*