

FIELD GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS

for Latitude: 38° 45' North Longitude: 112° West
Utah, United States

Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*)

ORDER: Artiodactyla
FAMILY: Bovidae

Conservation Status: The Peninsula Bighorn Sheep, *Ovis canadensis cremnobates*, is an Endangered subspecies; the Mexican Bighorn Sheep, *Ovis canadensis mexicana*, is Vulnerable.

Bighorn Sheep live only in remote, treeless mountain terrain. They use steep slopes and cliffs to escape from wolves, coyotes, and cougars. Many migrate seasonally, some moving a few hundred meters up or down a mountainside and others going 10–20 km from one mountain range to another. Some males make much longer migrations. Males and females live apart except during the mating season, when males vie for access to females. Larger size and age usually confer an advantage. The males rear up on their hind legs, kicking with their front legs and clashing their horns. Although Bighorn Sheep have heavily buttressed heads that absorb the shock of butting, these battles can result in death. Ewes usually give birth to one lamb, in May; twins are extremely rare. The lambs can follow their mothers within a day after birth, and nurse for 4–5 months. Bighorns eat seasonally available grasses and other vegetation, and cactus in the desert. They are attracted to natural salt licks, cattle licks, and piles of salt placed along highways for melting snow. In some places where bighorn populations went extinct, groups have been reintroduced, but many parts of their original range are no longer suitable. The species is declining in desert areas.

Also known as:
Mountain Sheep

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Range: 1.6–1.9 m males; 1.6–1.7 m females

Weight:
Range: 75–135 kg males; 48–85 kg females



Ovis canadensis – male (upper), female (lower)

Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Elk

(*Cervus elaphus*)

ORDER: Artiodactyla
FAMILY: Cervidae

There are more than 750,000 Elk today, many living on federally protected lands in the United States and Canada. They have prospered due to good conservation and management practices, and also perhaps because of the decline of large predators. Herds can include 200 or more animals. Males and females usually congregate in separate herds until the breeding season, in late September or early October. Then adult males use a variety of ostentatious behaviors to distinguish themselves and compete for access to reproducing females. They use their elaborate six-tined antlers, which may measure nearly 2 m in length along the main shaft, to clash with one another, they call loudly, and they spray urine. A calf weighing about 14 kg is born after a six-month gestation period. The future of Elk seems secure, so long as the interests of hunters, livestock managers, and tourists can be balanced.

Also known as:

Wapiti

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are larger than females.

Length:

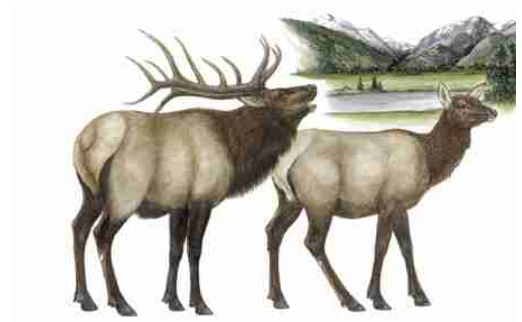
Average: 2.4 m males; 2.2 m females

Range: 2.1–2.6 m males; 2–2.5 m females

Weight:

Average: 331 kg males; 241 kg females

Range: 178–497 kg males; 171–292 kg females



Cervus elaphus – male, bugling, left; female, right

Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

ORDER: Artiodactyla
FAMILY: Cervidae

Mule Deer live in a broad range of habitats – forests, deserts, and brushlands. Mountain populations migrate to higher elevation in warmer months, looking for nutrient-rich new-grown grasses, twigs, and shrubs. They maintain separate summer and winter ranges, connected by a migratory pathway. In milder climates, they do not migrate. They live in small social groups of about three, except during the winter, when large groups may come together to feed in open meadows. Females tend to stay close to where they were born. Males disperse farther, establish their own territories, and compete for access to females during the October and November breeding season. The males lose their antlers after breeding and grow new ones yearly, with each set becoming larger than the previous one. Newborns, with spotted coats, are well-camouflaged.

Also known as:

California Mule Deer, Black-tailed Deer

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are usually heavier than females.

Length:

Range: 1.3–1.7 m males; 1.3–1.6 m females

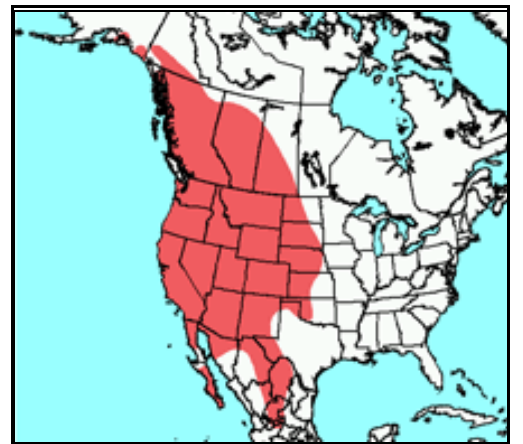
Weight:

Range: 40–120 kg males; 30–80 kg females



Odocoileus hemionus – coastal summer variation, left (male); inland winter variation, male (center) and female (right)

Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from *Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Coyote

(Canis latrans)

ORDER: Carnivora

FAMILY: Canidae

Coyotes are among the most adaptable mammals in North America. They have an enormous geographical distribution and can live in very diverse ecological settings, even successfully making their homes in suburbs, towns, and cities. They are omnivorous, eating plants, animals, and carrion. Socially, coyotes live in a variety of arrangements. Some live alone, others in mated pairs, and others in packs, which may consist of one mated pair, their new young, and offspring from the previous season that have not yet left their parents. Packs are an advantage when preying on larger mammals such as deer, or defending food resources, territory, and themselves.

Sexual Dimorphism:

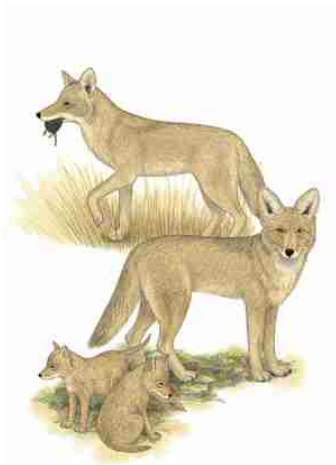
Males are larger than females.

Length:

Range: 750–1,000 mm

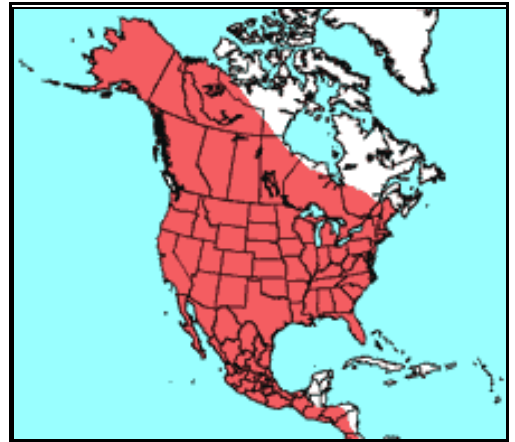
Weight:

Range: 8–20 kg males; 7–18 kg females



Canis latrans – eastern animals are larger (top); typical western animal and pups are shown below

Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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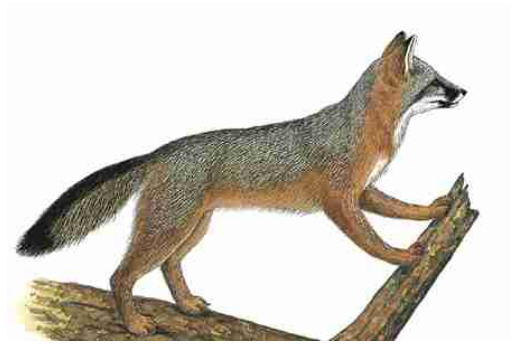
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Common Gray Fox
(Urocyon cinereoargenteus)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Canidae

Gray foxes are adept at climbing trees. They are active at night and during twilight, sleeping during the day in dense vegetation or secluded rocky places. Nursing mothers and pups use a den— a hollow log, abandoned building, tangle of brush, or cracked boulder—for shelter. When she is nursing small pups, the female stays within a few hundred meters of the den, but otherwise adults may range over a 2—5 square km area. Pups begin to forage on their own at about four months of age, and maintain close ties with the mother until they are about seven months old. By about ten months, both males and females are old enough to reproduce, and most females will have a litter annually from then on.



Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:

Zorra, Zorra Gris, Gato de Monte

Sexual Dimorphism:

None

Length:

Range: 800–1,130 mm

Weight:

Range: 3–7 kg



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Kit Fox

(*Vulpes macrotis*)

ORDER: Carnivora

FAMILY: Canidae

The kit fox has been thought by some to be a subspecies of the swift fox. This fox currently inhabits desert and semi-arid regions between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Rocky Mountains and on down into Baja California and the North Central states of Mexico; it is also found in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

Several features distinguish the kit fox from the swift fox. Kit fox ears are larger and set closer together than the swift fox. The head of the kit fox is slightly broader between the eyes and the snout is narrower. The kit fox has a longer tail, relative to the body, than the swift fox.

Their diet consists of the most readily available small mammals in the region, especially rodents and rabbits. The relationship of kit fox populations to populations of banner-tailed kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys spectabilis*) in the San Joaquin Valley and to black-tailed jack rabbits (*Lepus californicus*) in Utah have been well documented.

Length:

Range: 730–840 mm

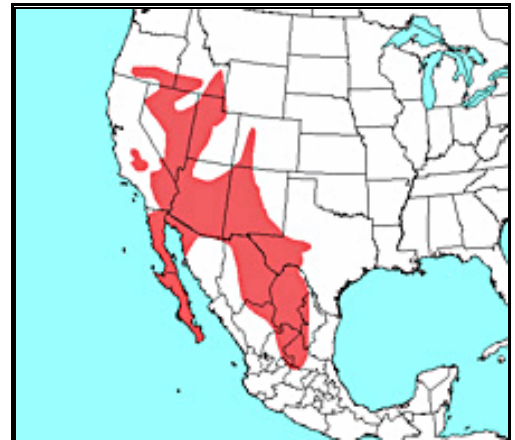
Weight:

Range: 1.4–2.7 kg



Vulpes macrotis – Kit Fox

Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Canidae

Red foxes are the most widely distributed wild carnivores in the world, occurring in North America, Asia, Europe, and North Africa. They are also widespread in Australia, where they were introduced in about 1850 so that fox-hunters would have something to hunt. Their range in North America has expanded since colonial times as their competitors, wolves, were eliminated, but their range has also contracted in areas where they are in competition with coyotes. Red foxes prey on voles, rabbits, hares, and other small mammals, and also eat birds, fruits, and invertebrates even beetles and earthworms. A male female pair typically inhabits a territory, and older, usually female, siblings help care for the younger offspring by bringing them food. Red foxes are among the main carriers and victims of rabies.

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males can be 15%–25% heavier than females.

Length:

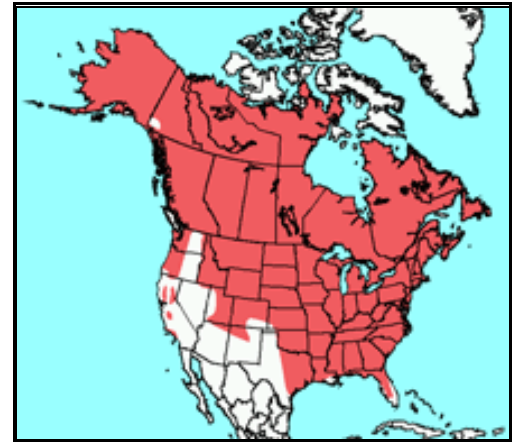
Range: 827–1,097 mm

Weight:

Range: 3–7 kg



Vulpes vulpes – typical coloration, top; silver fox, lower left; cross fox, lower right
Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Bobcat

(*Lynx rufus*)

ORDER: Carnivora

FAMILY: Felidae

The Bobcat is the most widely distributed native cat in North America. Bobcats occupy many habitat types, from desert to swamp to mountains. They are mostly nocturnal predators, taking quarry ranging in size from mouse to deer. Rabbits and hares make up a large part of the bobcat's diet. Like Lynx, male and female Bobcats maintain territories by scent-marking. An individual's territory does not overlap with another Bobcat's of the same sex, but females' home ranges can fall within the territories of males. Females breed sooner than males, at about one year of age; males are ready to breed when they are about two. One litter, with an average of three kittens, is born each year.

Also known as:

Wildcat, Bay Lynx, Barred Bobcat, Pallid Bobcat, Red Lynx

Length:

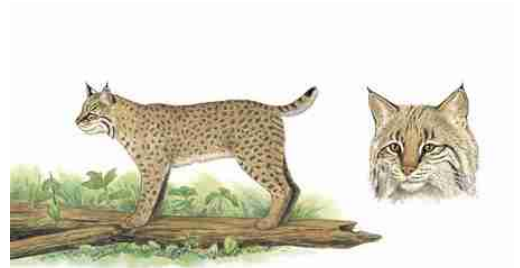
Average: 869 mm males; 786 mm females

Range: 475–1,252 mm males; 610–1,219 mm females

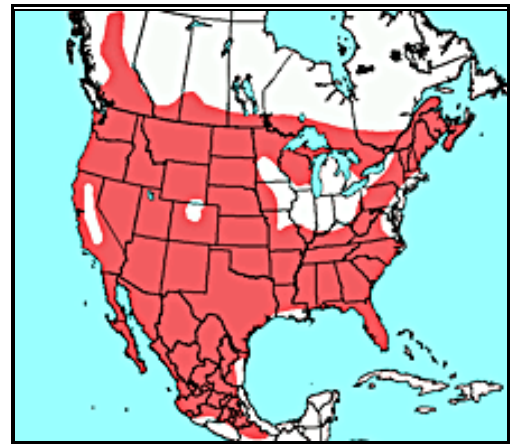
Weight:

Average: 12 kg males; 9 kg females

Range: 7.2–31 kg males; 3.8–24 kg females



Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Cougar

(*Puma concolor*)

ORDER: Carnivora

FAMILY: Felidae

Conservation Status: Two subspecies *P. concolor coryi*, the Florida Panther, and *P. concolor cougar*, the Eastern Cougar, are Critically Endangered; the parent species is Near Threatened.

Cougars avoid open habitats such as flat, shrubless deserts and farm fields, but can make a living in swamps, forests, and desert scrub habitat. They live solitary lives at low population densities, and usually avoid humans, but about four attacks are reported annually in the United States and Canada. Cougars hunt at night, either stalking their prey or waiting in ambush to pounce. They take hoofed mammals, sometimes including domestic livestock, and other prey, including rabbits, hares, porcupines, bobcats, coyotes, beavers, opossums, skunks, and even other Cougars. They rarely bed down in the same place two days in a row unless they are watching young or consuming a large kill. Some states and provinces allow Cougars to be hunted for sport

Also known as:

Mountain Lion, Puma, Florida Panther, Catamount

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are significantly heavier than females.

Length:

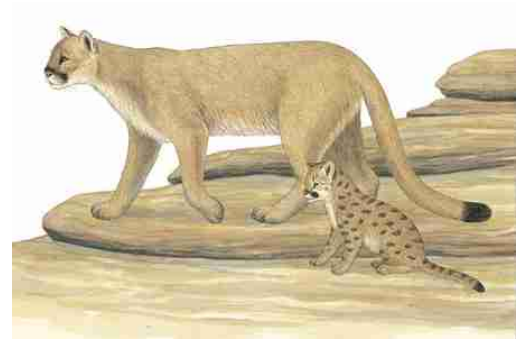
Average: 1,270 mm males; 1,140 mm females

Range: 1,020–1,540 mm males; 860–1,310 mm females

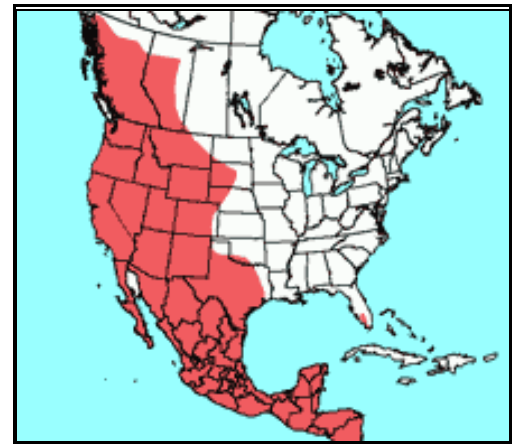
Weight:

Average: 62 kg males; 42 kg females

Range: 36–120 kg males; 29–64 kg females



Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Striped Skunk
(Mephitis mephitis)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Mephitidae

The Striped Skunk is the most common skunk in North America, yet most of what we know about it comes from studies of captive individuals. Like all skunks, it has a superb defense system, the ability to spray a foul-smelling fluid from two glands near the base of its tail. Skunk musk is oily and difficult to remove. If sprayed in the eyes, it causes intense pain and temporary blindness. Skunk kittens can spray when they are only eight days old, long before they can aim, a skill they exhibit only after their eyes open at about 24 days. Skunks attempt to give a warning before they spray: both Hooded and Striped skunks stamp their front feet before turning around and spraying. Like all skunks, Striped Skunks are nocturnal and eat a variable diet, mostly of insects, but also including small mammals, carrion, and some vegetation.

Also known as:

Skunk, Big/large Skunk, Polecat

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are 15% larger than females, but females have longer tails.

Length:

Range: 575–800 mm

Weight:

Range: 1,200–5,300 g



Mephitis mephitis – typical pattern, lower left; white tail variant, upper right
Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Western Spotted Skunk
(Spilogale gracilis)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Mephitidae

Eastern and Western Spotted Skunks were for years thought to be one and the same species, but they differ in an important detail of the reproductive process. In the Western Spotted Skunk, a very long period of delayed implantation occurs. The fertilized eggs begin to develop, then stop growing at a very early stage and float freely in the uterus. When they "implant," attaching to the uterine wall, growth begins again. Breeding occurs in September or October and the fertilized eggs remain on hold for 6–7 months. In March or April, development resumes, and two to six kits are born about a month later, coinciding with a plentiful food supply. The skunks are carnivorous, feeding on mice and other small mammals, insects, lizards, birds, and carrion. They also eat some vegetable matter.

Also known as:
Civet Cat, Hydrophobia Cat, Polecat

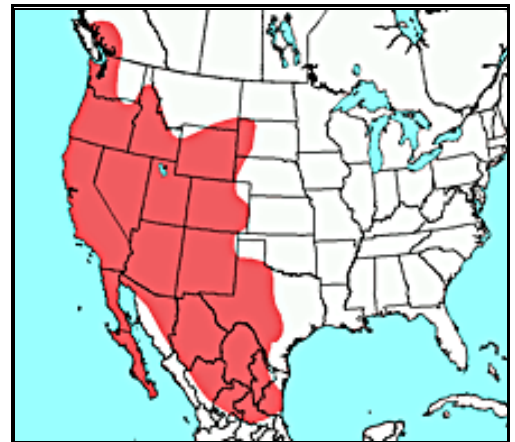
Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are 7%–10% larger than females.

Length:
Average: 425 mm males; 383 mm females
Range: 350–581 mm males; 320–470 mm females

Weight:
Average: 700 g males; 400 g females
Range: 500–900 gm males; 200–600 gm females



Spilogale gracilis – inset shows pattern variation among a family
Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Ermine

(*Mustela erminea*)

ORDER: Carnivora

FAMILY: Mustelidae

Ermine are highly adaptable predators, easily invading small burrows to feed on voles, mice, and young rabbits. They also eat earthworms, frogs, and squirrels, climbing trees and swimming if necessary.

Mother Ermine teach their young to hunt. Litters of 4—9 young are born in nests that are often located in rodent burrows. The newborns are blind and helpless, but in six weeks are almost adult-size. In the summer, the Ermine's coat is brown, but in the winter it is pure white except for the tip of the tail, which stays black. Ermine population density tends to fluctuate as rodent populations fluctuate.

Also known as:

Short-tailed Weasel, Stoat

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are approximately twice the size of females.

Length:

Average: 272 mm males; 240 mm females

Range: 219–343 mm males; 190–292 mm females

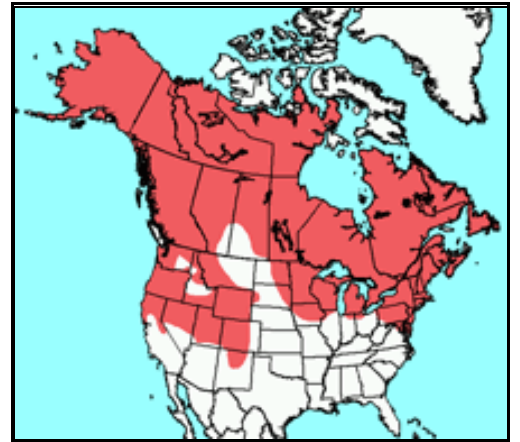
Weight:

Average: 80 g males; 54 g females

Range: 67–116 g males; 25–80 g females



Mustela erminea – summer coat depicted here; winter coat is white except for black tail tip
Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Long-tailed Weasel (*Mustela frenata*)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Mustelidae

Long-tailed Weasels are voracious predators, foraging day and night for small vertebrates, and scavenging for carrion when necessary. In captivity, adults can consume an amount equal to one-third their own body weight in 24 hours. In the wild they may store food in a burrow or near a kill site. They are solitary except for the July–August breeding season. Both males and females maintain territories, marking them with chemical secretions from anal glands. Litters usually comprise 4–5 pups, born in a den. In 12 weeks they reach full adult body weight and begin hunting for food, pursuing mates, and establishing territories. Foxes, raptors, Coyotes, domestic dogs and cats, and rattlesnakes all prey on Long-tailed Weasels, and although they can live in a variety of habitats, population densities are low. In some locations they are endangered, and in others, considered threatened or species of concern.

Also known as:
Bridled Weasel

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Range: 330–420 mm males; 280–350 mm females

Weight:
Range: 160–450 g males; 80–250 g females



Mustela frenata – winter coat, left; summer coat, center;
"Bridled Weasel", right
Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's
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American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Mustelidae

Badgers look like short, shaggy, medium-sized dogs. They are powerful diggers. One, taken to a football game as a mascot, escaped and dug its way under the field. They dig after and feed on ground squirrels and pocket gophers, and also eat toads, frogs, birds, snakes, insects and insect grubs, wasps, bees, and worms. They sleep through most of the winter in a den, spending about 29 hours at a time in a state of torpor, rousing briefly, and then sleeping again. In torpor, which is not true hibernation, the Badger's heartbeat slows to about half the normal rate and its temperature drops. Humans are the Badgers' worst enemy, trapping and poisoning them, but they are now protected in some states and provinces.

Also known as:

North American Badger, Tlalcoyote, or Blaireau

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are larger than females.

Length:

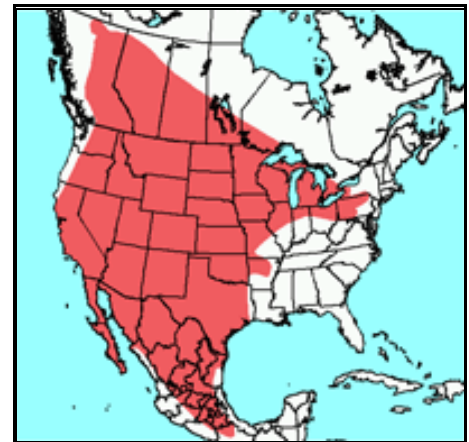
Range: 600–790 mm

Weight:

Range: up to 12 kg in the wild, 18 kg in captivity



Taxidea taxus – typical coat pattern, right; southwestern variant with longer dorsal stripe, left
Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Ursidae

Most Black Bears hibernate for up to seven months, and do not eat, drink, urinate, or exercise the entire time. In the South, where plant food is available all year, not all bears hibernate—but pregnant females do. The female gives birth to 1–6 cubs (usually 2 or 3) in January, while she is deep asleep in her den. The newborn cubs snuggle next to her for warmth and nurse while she fasts. They grow from a birth weight of 200–450 g each (about 7–16 pounds) to the 2–5 kg they will weigh when the family leaves the den in the spring. Black Bears eat a little meat, and some insects, but they rely on fruit, nuts, and vegetation for the bulk of their nutritional needs. They are not all black. Most are, with brown muzzles, but in some western forests they are brown, cinnamon, or blond, and a few, in southern Alaska and British Columbia, are creamy white or bluish–gray.

Also known as:

Many common names are given to the many subspecies that have been described, such as: Olympic Black Bear, Glacier Bear, California Black Bear, Florida Black Bear.

Sexual Dimorphism:

The largest males may be nearly twice as heavy as the heaviest females.

Length:

Range: 1,44–2,000 mm males; 1,200–1,600 mm females

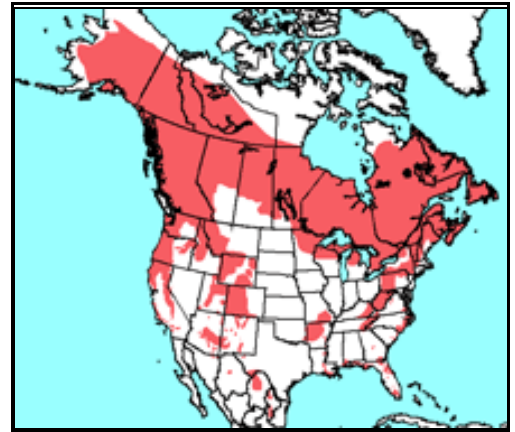
Weight:

Average: 120 kg males; 80 kg females
Range: 47–409 kg males; 39–236 kg females



Ursus americanus – eastern, black variant

Credit: painting by Consie Powell from *Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Big Free-tailed Bat
(Nyctinomops macrotis)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Molossidae

The big free-tailed bat has long, narrow, tapering wings. The length and shape of the wings give it speed and enable it to fly long distances, but its flight is not as maneuverable as that of bats with shorter, broader wings. These bats live in rugged habitats in the Southwest in the summer and migrate to Mexico in the winter. When they are foraging, they emit echolocation calls that sound like clicks to human ears. Most bats use calls that are beyond the range of human hearing. The bats forage, mostly for large moths, in total darkness, not leaving their day roosts until well after sunset. Their tails extend well beyond the tail membrane (uropatagium), the membrane that stretches between the hind legs.

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are slightly larger than females.

Length:

Range: 145–160 mm males; 120–139 mm females

Weight:

Range: 22–30 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Brazilian Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Molossidae

Conservation Status: Near Threatened.

Millions of Brazilian free-tailed bats spend their summers in the southwestern United States. Gigantic colonies summer in Bracken Cave, Texas; Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico; and even within the city of Austin, Texas, under the Congress Avenue Bridge. They are a spectacular sight spiraling out of their day roosts like great, dark, swirling clouds when they emerge in the evening to forage. The bats eat untold numbers of insects each night, sometimes catching their prey at altitudes of a mile or more. They typically migrate to central and southern Mexico in the winter, where they live in smaller colonies. They mate there, and fly north again – as far as 1,300 km – between February and April. Females give birth to a single pup, in June, and nurse it for about six weeks. Although they number in the millions, conservation is a concern, because they raise their young in a limited number of caves, and because pesticides can accumulate in their body tissues.

Also known as:

Guano Bat, Mexican Free-tailed Bat

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males may be about 5% longer than females but females weigh about 5% more than males.

Length:

Average: 95 mm
Range: 85–109 mm

Weight:

Range: 10–15 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Pallid Bat
(Antrozous pallidus)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Common throughout its range, the pallid bat occurs in arid and semi-arid regions throughout northern Mexico and the western United States. Pallid bats eat beetles, grasshoppers, and moths, and they forage for slow-moving prey, such as scorpions, flightless arthropods, and sometimes lizards, at and near ground level. They use echolocation to detect prey, but also use their large ears to listen for prey movements. Pallid bats visit flowers in their hunt for insects, and are natural pollinators of several species of cactus.



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America. © Princeton University Press (2002)

Length:
Range: 92–135 mm

Weight:
Range: 13.6–24.1 g males; 13.9–28.9 g females



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Utah, United States

Townsend's Big-eared Bat
(Corynorhinus townsendii)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Conservation Status: Vulnerable.

Sporting prominent ears that look almost like wings, Townsend's big-eared bat largely preys on moths over open pasture and forest canopy. For females, foraging increases during pregnancy and lactation, from one or two foraging bouts per night to three, and the distance traveled also increases, from 1.0 km to more than 4.0 km per night. Females form maternity groups in the spring, in caves and shelters, where they give birth to a single pup. In addition to winter hibernation, these bats also experience daily periods of torpor during cooler weather, a sleeplike state of reduced motor and metabolic activity. Townsend's big-eared bat occurs in the western United States, northward to British Columbia, as far east as the Rocky Mountain States from Idaho to Texas, including Kansas and Oklahoma, and there are also populations in Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Also known as:

Western Long-eared Bat, Western Big-eared Bat, Western Lump-nosed Bat, Mule-eared Bat

Sexual Dimorphism:

Females are larger than males.

Length:

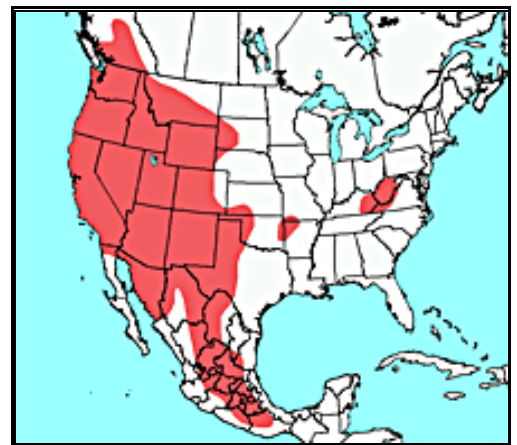
Range: 89–116 mm

Weight:

Range: 9–12 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Big brown bats make their homes in rural areas, towns, and cities, sometimes choosing barns, houses, or other buildings as roosts. Males usually live alone; females gather in maternity colonies in the spring and summer to give birth and raise their young. A maternity colony may include 20 – 75 adults and their offspring. Females in the eastern United States usually give birth to twins; those in the West usually have a single pup each year. Females may return to the same colony year after year. On warm, dry evenings, the bats leave the roost shortly after sunset to forage for insects especially flying beetles which they catch and eat in the air. When the weather is cold or wet, they may stay in the roost, dropping their body temperature and living on stored fat. In the winter, they hibernate. Many migrate a short distance (less than 80 km) to find mines or caves for hibernation, but some spend the winter in attics or walls where the temperature is cool but stays above freezing.

Also known as:

Brown Bat

Sexual Dimorphism:

Females are larger than males.

Length:

Average: 112 mm
Range: 87–138 mm

Weight:

Average: 16 g
Range: 11–23 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Spotted Bat
(Euderma maculatum)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Conspicuous and distinctive, with three highly visible white spots on its black back, and large—than—life ears for its body size, the spotted bat would doubtless be the object of more human attention if it flew during the day. As it is, these bats are caught only rarely, and few of their roosts have been found. They inhabit coniferous forests and lowland deserts, from sea level to 3,000 m, and prey on a variety of moths and other insects. They feed on the wing, using echolocation calls that humans can hear (most bats' calls are beyond the range of human hearing).



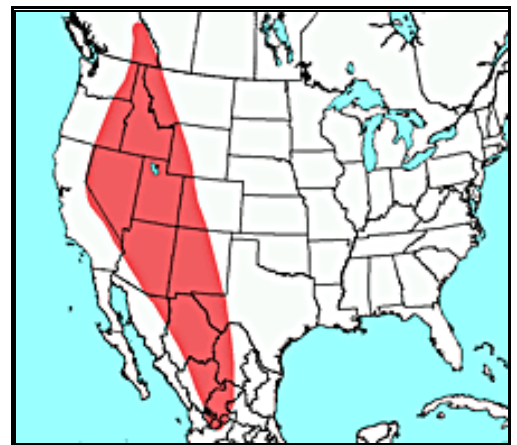
Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Pinto Bat

Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Range: 107–125 mm

Weight:
Range: 15–22 g



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Silver-haired Bat
(Lasiorycteris noctivagans)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Somewhat resembling the larger hoary bat, the silver-haired bat has frosted tips on the black or dark-brown fur of its back. Silver-haired bats occur in both grassland and forest, and are abundant in old-growth forest. They feed on small flying insects, especially moths, using echolocation to navigate and hunt. They start foraging after sunset, finding their prey at treetop level or over streams and ponds. Seasonal changes in the numbers of bats have been observed: more individuals are seen farther north in the summer and farther south in winter, suggesting that the species is probably migratory. However, these bats can enter torpor for energy conservation, and some individuals may not migrate.



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Sexual Dimorphism:

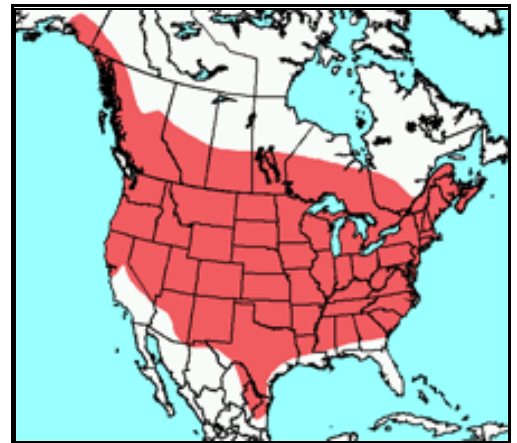
Females are larger than males.

Length:

Range: 90–117 mm

Weight:

Range: 9–12 g



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Western Red Bat
(Lasiurus blossevillii)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

This close cousin to the eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) is genetically distinct. These bats are found along the west coast and southwestern US and into Mexico where thought to hibernate in the winter. Lasiurine bats are solitary creatures that roost in broad leaved trees, especially cottonwoods and willows in the foothills and lower mountains of the southwest and in the fruit and nut orchards of the west, where they resemble dried leaves when they are curled up and asleep. They are often found near streams. Their preferred diet is moths – street lamps are the ideal cafeteria for these tasty morsels.

Length:
Range: 92–112 mm

Weight:
Range: 6–10 gm



Illustrations of *Lasiurus borealis*, (eastern red bat); *L. blossevillii* is quite similar in appearance but slightly smaller
Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Hoary Bat
(Lasiurus cinereus)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Hoary bats are found from northern Canada all the way to Guatemala, and also in South America and Hawaii. They are solitary and roost in trees. Their frosted, or hoary, look comes from a tinge of white over their grayish–brown fur. Their flight is distinctively fast and direct and can be used as an identifying trait. Hoary bats eat moths, beetles, grasshoppers, wasps, and dragonflies.

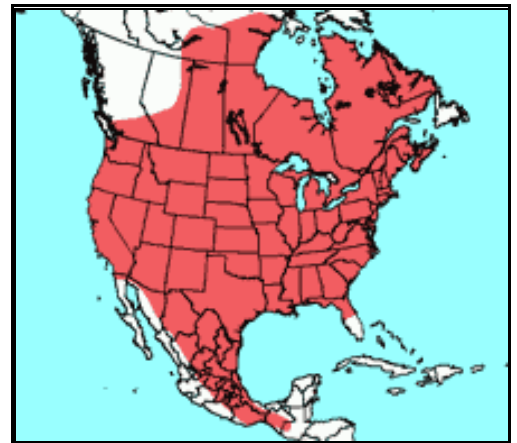
Sexual Dimorphism:
Females are larger than males.

Length:
Average: 80.5 mm males; 83.6 mm females
Range: 77–87 mm

Weight:
Range: 20–35 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Western Small-footed Myotis
(Myotis ciliolabrum)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

The western small-footed myotis occurs in limited areas of southwestern Canada, throughout much of the western United States, and into Mexico. It is better adapted to moist areas than to dry ones. It roosts alone or in small groups in rock crevices, mines, caves, or buildings, and even occasionally uses in an abandoned swallow's nest as a roosting site. It eats insects, including flies, beetles, moths, and ants. Like many bats, the western small-footed myotis mates in the fall and sperm is stored in the female's body over the winter, while she hibernates. In the spring, the female ovulates and fertilization occurs. A single pup is born in May, June, or July, and is ready to fly when it is about a month old.



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:

Small-footed Myotis, Western Small-footed Bat

Sexual Dimorphism:

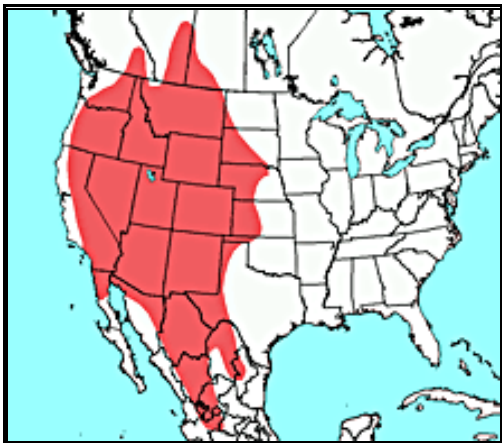
Females are larger than males.

Length:

Range: 76–90 mm

Weight:

Range: 2.8–7.1 g



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Long-eared Myotis
(Myotis evotis)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

With its long, luxurious fur, which can range in color from dark brown to pale yellow, and its large, coal-black ears, the long-eared myotis is a striking animal. Long-eared myotis prefer roosting in rock outcroppings and dead trees. They feed on a variety of insects, and are often seen hunting in dense vegetation or over small bodies of water. They seem to prefer moths and beetles, and it appears these bats "turn off" their echolocation to listen for insects, which they can pluck from trunks and branches by hovering momentarily. Like many bats, but unlike most other small mammals, they have a long life span. Individuals have been known to live for 22 years, although the average is much shorter.



Myotis evotis – inset shows trailing edges of tail membranes
Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Long-eared Bat, Little Big-eared Bat

Length:
Range: 87–100 mm

Weight:
Range: 5–8 g



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Little Brown Bat
(Myotis lucifugus)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Echolocation of little brown bats has been well studied since the invention of bat detectors, electronic devices that can "hear" the ultrasonic calls bats make, which are usually beyond the range of human hearing. Little brown bats typically produce calls lasting about 4 milliseconds. While cruising, they emit echolocation calls about 20 times per second, spacing the pulses at 50 millisecond intervals. When attacking airborne prey, the pulse rates rise drastically, to 200 per second, with only 5 millisecond gaps between calls. The information the bats receive through echolocation allows them to orient themselves, and to locate, track, and evaluate their insect prey. Little brown bats feed near or over water, mainly on aquatic insects such as caddis flies, mayflies, and midges, and typically consume half their body weight in insects each night. Nursing females may eat up to 110 percent of their body weight each night.



Myotis lucifugus – inset shows long toe hairs

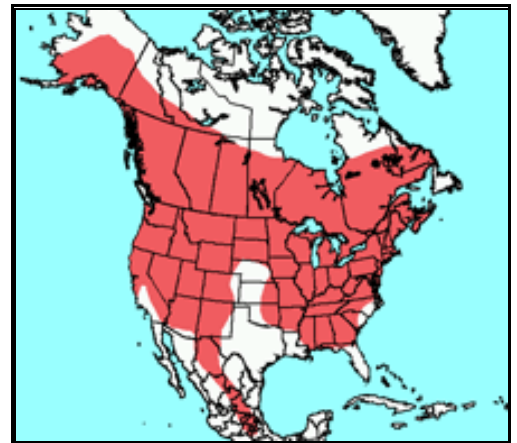
Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Little Brown Myotis

Sexual Dimorphism:
Females are slightly larger than males.

Length:
Average: 87 mm
Range: 60–102 mm

Weight:
Average: 10 g
Range: 7–13 g



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Fringed Myotis
(Myotis thysanodes)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

The fringed myotis belongs to the long-eared myotis group, all of which tend to be high-elevation forest bats. This species has the shortest ears and occupies the lowest elevation of the group. Its wings are short and broad, indicating maneuverable, low-speed flight, and it seems to be a specialist at gleaning small beetles from vegetation surfaces. Beetles may make up 70 percent of its diet. Fringed myotis have one baby a year, and it is huge in proportion to the mother's size. A newborn's weight is 22 percent, and its length is 54 percent, of the mother's. Newborn bats are left hanging in special roosts, where 2–10 adult females are always present to care for them. The other females fly out at dusk to forage and return at dawn, but are there as necessary to nurse their young. Before they are three weeks old, the young can fly, and by three weeks, they are as large as adults.

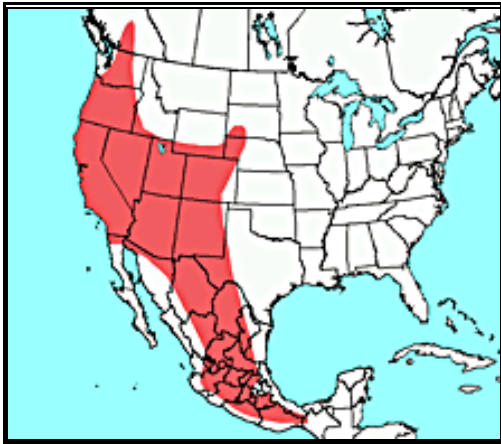


Myotis thysanodes – inset shows trailing edges of tail membranes
Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Sexual Dimorphism:
Females are larger than males.

Length:
Average: 89 mm
Range: 80–99 mm

Weight:
Average: 8.8 g
Range: 6–11.8 g



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Long-legged Myotis
(Myotis volans)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Long-legged myotis typically occupy mountainous or relatively rugged areas. They often live in coniferous forest, although they are sometimes found in oak or streamside woodlands, and even deserts. They feed mostly on moths, but are opportunistic, eating whatever soft-bodied insects are most abundant. When several long-legged myotis are feeding in the same area, and two bats seem to be on a collision course, they alter their echolocation calls, adding a lower-frequency "honk."

Also known as:
Hairy-winged Myotis

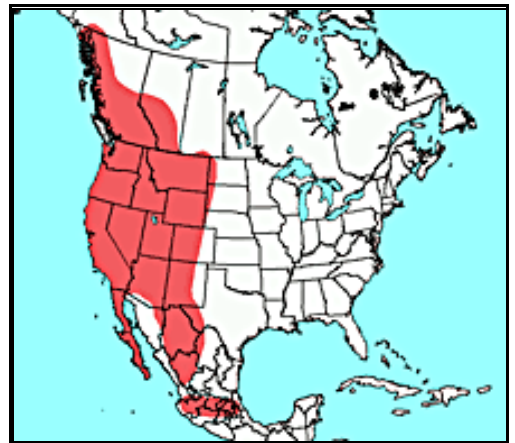
Length:
Range: 76–106 mm

Weight:
Average: 7.5 g
Range: 5–10 g



Myotis volans ssp. *interior*

Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Western Pipistrelle
(Pipistrellus hesperus)

ORDER: Chiroptera
FAMILY: Vespertilionidae

Western pipistrelles sometimes leave their roosts before sundown, and can be mistaken for late-flying butterflies, because they are so tiny and fly slowly and erratically, with much fluttering of their wings. Most common at low elevations in desert scrub and arid grassland habitats, they are also found in adjacent woodlands. Although they range over the arid West, western pipistrelles require a ready source of water—a lake, stream, or even a swimming pool. They—and some shrews—are the smallest mammals in North America, with weights ranging from 2–6 g. In spite of their tiny size, western pipistrelles usually give birth to twins, which are born and raised in small maternity colonies. The largest colony yet found comprised just four female bats and their eight young.

Also known as:
Canyon Bat

Sexual Dimorphism:
Females are larger than males.

Length:
Range: 60–86 mm

Weight:
Range: 2–6 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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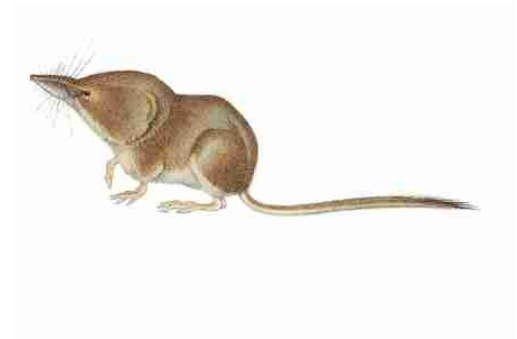
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Cinereus Shrew
(Sorex cinereus)

ORDER: Insectivora
FAMILY: Soricidae

Mainly nocturnal and rarely seen, the Cinereus Shrew is nonetheless common and widespread below the timberline in northern deciduous and coniferous forests, in both wet and dry habitats. It is also known as the Masked Shrew and the Common Shrew. Litter size ranges from 4–10, averaging 7. The newborns are about 15–17 mm long and are hairless, with fused eyelids. Their eyes open after 17 or 18 days, and they are weaned at approximately 20 days. The Cinereus Shrew is not distinctly marked. The back is brown, the underside is grayish white, and the tail has a blackish tip.



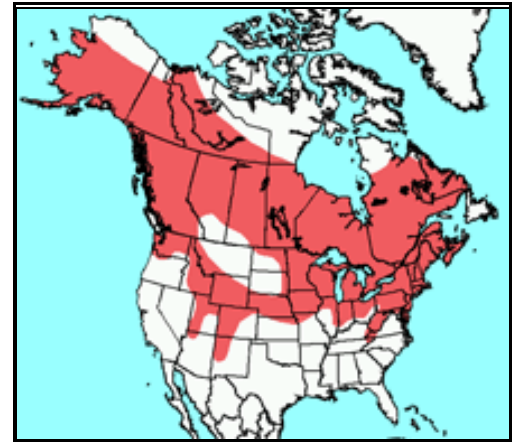
Credit: painting by Nancy Halliday from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Masked Shrew, Common Shrew

Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Average: 96.6 mm
Range: 75–125 mm

Weight:
Range: 2.2–5.4 g



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Merriam's Shrew
(Sorex merriami)

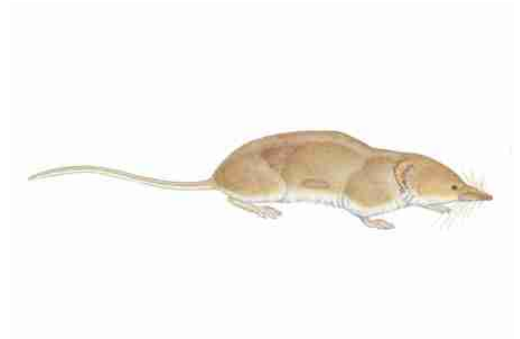
ORDER: Insectivora
FAMILY: Soricidae

Merriam's Shrew is noted for its predilection for dry habitats. It is most often found in sagebrush steppe, but also in grassland, brushland, and woodland, at elevations from 200 m to 2,900 m. It preys on beetles, spiders, caterpillars, crickets, and wasps, and probably on many other terrestrial invertebrates. This shrew has a grayish–brown back, paler flanks, and a nearly white underside. The tail shows the same strong bicolored pattern. Owls are known to prey on shrews, but some mammals eat them only if they have no other food available, because of their pungent smell.

Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Average: 96.3 mm
Range: 99–107 mm

Weight:
Average: 5.9 g
Range: 4–7 g



Credit: painting by Nancy Halliday from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Montane Shrew
(Sorex monticolus)

ORDER: Insectivora
FAMILY: Soricidae

Montane Shrews are among the most common shrews, and do well in a variety of moist habitats: thick, grassy areas near streams or rivers; meadows; thickets of willow and alder; spruce–fir forests; and alpine tundra. They are dietary generalists, eating insects, earthworms, and other invertebrates. Females can have two litters a year, usually of 5 or 6 young. The Montane Shrew may occur with as many as four other species of shrews, and except for the water shrew, it is usually the largest shrew where it is found. Normally, Montane Shrews do not live longer than 16–18 months.

Also known as:
Dusky Shrew

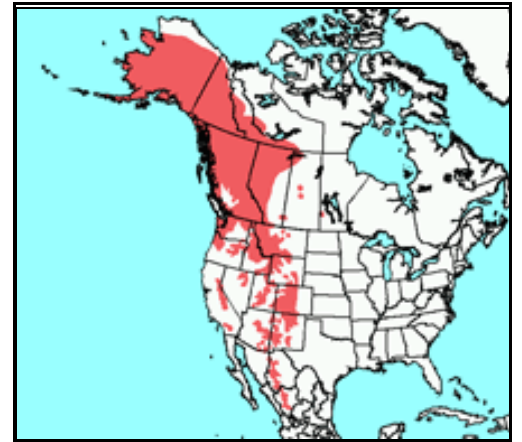
Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Average: 119 mm
Range: 95–139 mm

Weight:
Range: 4.4–10.2 g



Credit: painting by Nancy Halliday from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Water Shrew
(Sorex palustris)

ORDER: Insectivora
FAMILY: Soricidae

Water Shrews are almost invariably found near streams or other bodies of water, where they find food and also escape from predators. These shrews readily dive to stream bottoms, paddling furiously to keep from bobbing to the surface—their fur, full of trapped air, makes them buoyant. They feed on aquatic invertebrates, insect larvae, and even small fish. In the water they are susceptible to predation from larger fish and snakes. On land, Water Shrews have a more typical shrew diet, feeding on a variety of invertebrates, including earthworms, snails, and insects. They also eat fungi and green vegetation.

Also known as:
American Water Shrew, Northern Water Shrew

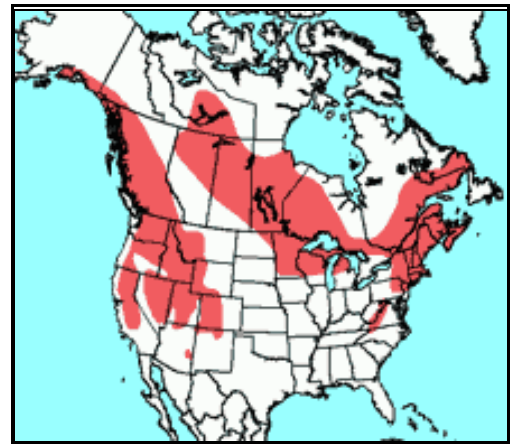
Sexual Dimorphism:
Males average slightly heavier and longer than females.

Length:
Average: 151.4 mm
Range: 130–170 mm

Weight:
Average: 13.8 g
Range: 8–18 g



Credit: painting by Nancy Halliday from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Pygmy Rabbit
(Brachylagus idahoensis)

ORDER: Lagomorpha
FAMILY: Leporidae

Conservation Status: Near Threatened.

Pygmy Rabbits dig extensive burrow systems, which are also used by other animals. Loss of habitat is a direct threat to this species, which depends on big sagebrush, particularly mature stands of it. Both birds and mammals prey on pygmy Rabbits, which are an important food for many of the other animals in its range. The rabbit's habitat has become increasingly fragmented by development, agriculture, rangeland "improvements"—for example, projects that replace big sagebrush with bunchgrasses—and by fire. There is reason to be concerned about the future of this smallest North American member of the rabbit family.

Sexual Dimorphism:

Females are larger than males.

Length:

Average: 275 mm males; 283 mm females
Range: 252–285 mm males; 230–302 mm females

Weight:

Average: 411 g males; 432 g females
Range: 373–435 g males; 415–458 g females



Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*)

ORDER: Lagomorpha
FAMILY: Leporidae

The Snowshoe Hare is broadly distributed in the north from coast to coast and occurs in a variety of habitat types, including swamps, hardwood forests, and mixed and evergreen forests. Nocturnal like most members of the family, this hare consistently travels along the same runways and tends to remain hidden in vegetation until sundown. It is active year round and can have two to five litters per year, each producing one to eight offspring. Their populations fluctuate radically over 10-year cycles, which is probably because of changes in food supply: the hare population grows, they over-graze, and starvation follows. True to its name, the Snowshoe Hare has large feet padded by dense spiraling hairs, each acting like a spring. Most Snowshoe Hares change color, from a summer brown coat to winter white, offering camouflage in each season.

Also known as:

Snowshoe Rabbit, Varying Hare

Sexual Dimorphism:

Females are larger than males.

Length:

Average: 450 mm

Range: 363–520 mm

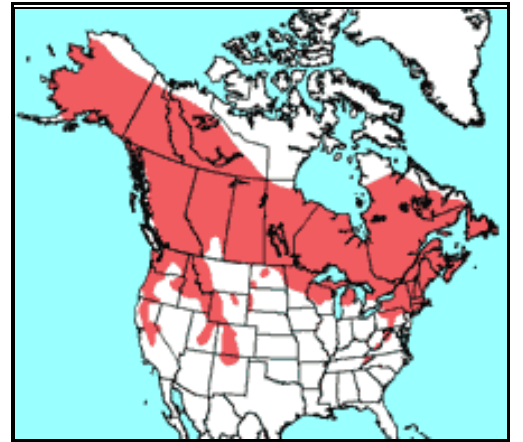
Weight:

Average: 1,300 g males; 1,500 g females

Range: 900–1,700 g males; 900–2,200 g females



Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Black-tailed Jackrabbit
(Lepus californicus)

ORDER: Lagomorpha
FAMILY: Leporidae

Black-tailed Jackrabbits are tremendous leapers, able to jump more than 6 m horizontally. They live in some of the hottest and driest regions of the continent, can survive on poor-quality foods, and get most or all of the water they need from their food. Where they can, they eat green vegetation, but they can survive in parts of the Southwest where creosote-bush forms a large part of their diet. They cope with extreme heat by lowering their metabolism and resting in the shade during the day, which conserves water. They get rid of extra salt through their urine, and blood flows close to the skin in their enormous ears, a cooling mechanism. Although mostly nocturnal and solitary, large groups sometimes form near a good food supply. With their typically high reproductive output, Black-tails can be agricultural pests, and there were periods in the 1800s and 1900s when aggressive rabbit drives herded and destroyed 5,000–6,000 animal in a single day. In spite of this, they are quite common and widespread.



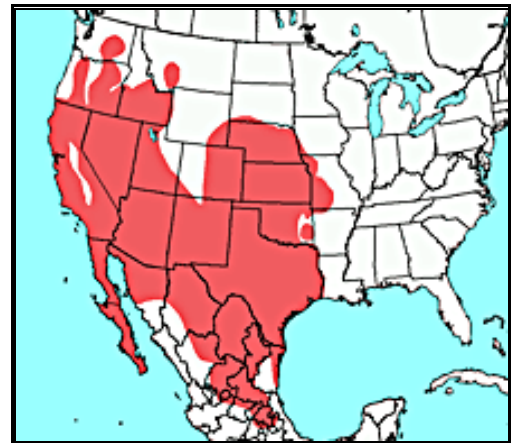
Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Member of order Lagomorpha.

Also known as:
California Jackrabbit

Length:
Range: 465–630 mm

Weight:
Range: 1,300–3,300 g



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White-tailed Jackrabbit
(Lepus townsendii)

ORDER: Lagomorpha
FAMILY: Leporidae

White-tailed Jackrabbits live at a remarkably broad range of elevations, from 40 m to 4,300 m, and where they are in competition with Black-tailed Jackrabbits, they tend to move toward higher elevations. They are slightly larger than black-tails, but seem to be more selective in their dietary choices, putting them at a disadvantage where the two species overlap. White-tailed Jackrabbits prefer grassland habitat, feeding on grasses and green forbs first, and resorting to shrubs during the winter months. They are among the most solitary of hares and usually interact only briefly during the breeding season, when small groups may be seen. A female may produce 1-4 litters, usually of 4 or 5 young, each year.



Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Prairie Hare

Sexual Dimorphism:
Females are larger than males.

Length:
Average: 589 mm males; 612 mm females
Range: 565-618 mm males; 575-655 mm females

Weight:
Average: 3,400 g males; 3,600 g females
Range: 2,600-4,300 g males; 2,500-4,300 g females



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Mountain Cottontail
(Sylvilagus nuttallii)

ORDER: Lagomorpha
FAMILY: Leporidae

At dawn and dusk in the mountainous regions of the western United States, the Mountain Cottontail forages for sagebrush, western juniper, and grasses, almost always close to cover. As befits a rabbit that lives where it gets very cold, its feet are covered with long, dense hair, and its rather short ears are furry inside. Young rabbits are born blind and hairless, in nests lined with grass and the mother's fur, in litters of four to eight. (In contrast, hares are born fully furred and ready to hop.) A female Mountain Cottontail may produce five litters each year.



Sylvilagus nuttallis – mountain habitat

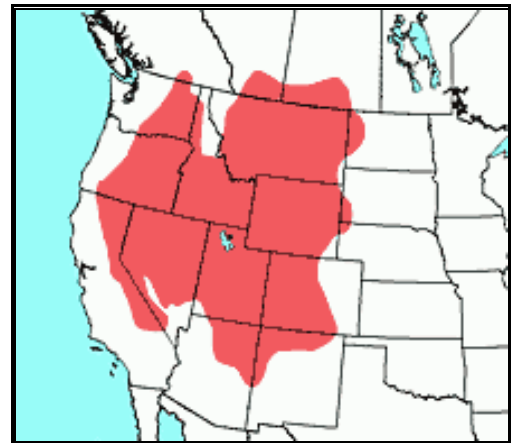
Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Nuttall's Cottontail

Sexual Dimorphism:
Females are larger than males.

Length:
Average: 362 mm
Range: 338–390 mm

Weight:
Range: 628–871 g



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American Pika
(*Ochotona princeps*)

ORDER: Lagomorpha
FAMILY: Ochotonidae

Conservation Status: Seven subspecies are Vulnerable: *O. princeps goldmani*, *O. princeps lasalensis*, *O. princeps nevadensis*, *O. princeps nigrescens*, *O. princeps obscura*, *O. princeps sheltoni*, and *O. princeps tutelata*

American Pikas scent-mark with their cheek glands, and also communicate with both long and short vocalizations. Short calls are uttered as alarms and to announce that they are departing or returning from foraging, and males perform a "song" during the breeding season. Males and females maintain individual, same-size territories, usually living next to an individual of the opposite sex. Pikas seem to spend much of the day sitting still, observing their surroundings. Females breed when they are a year old, and have a litter of three after a 30-day gestation period. The young are independent about a month after birth. Predators include coyotes, long-tailed weasels, martens, and ermine.

Also known as:

Rocky Mountain Pika, Southern Pika, Rock Rabbit, Piping Hare, Hay-maker, Mouse-hare, Whistling Hare, Cony

Sexual Dimorphism:

None

Length:

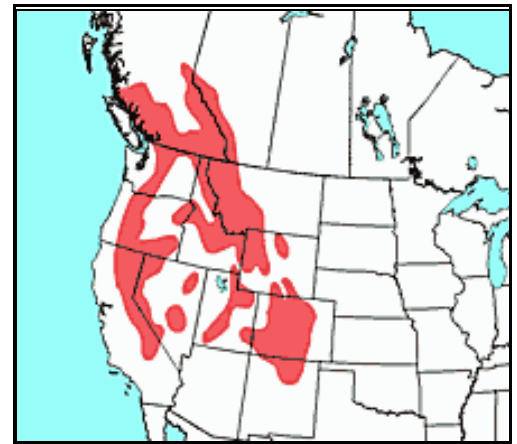
Range: 162–216 mm

Weight:

Range: 121–176 g



Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Castoridae

The largest North American rodent and the only one with a broad, flat, scaly tail, the Beaver is now common and widespread, even in areas it did not inhabit during pre-colonial times. The modifications it makes to the environment by felling trees and building dams result in changes to plant, animal, and microbial communities that are sometimes desirable and sometimes not. The Beaver itself is not easily seen, being nocturnal and secretive, but it can be spotted in ponds, lakes, or large streams at twilight by a quiet observer. Its pelage is brown, with gray underfur, and is prized by trappers. The webbing on its hind feet help it to swim; claws on the digits of its forefeet give it dexterity in handling food; comblike claws on its hind feet help it in careful grooming; and it can close its mouth behind its front teeth, so that it can carry woody material without taking in water. Beavers cache and consume the inner bark of both deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees, as well as terrestrial and aquatic plants. Their young, called kits, leave the colony at the age of six months.

Also known as:
Canadian Beaver, North American Beaver

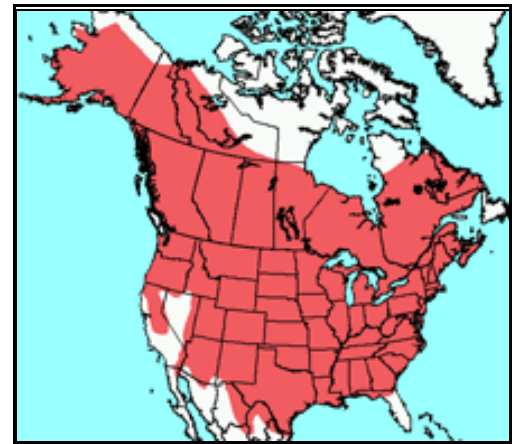
Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Range: 1,000–1,200 mm

Weight:
Range: 16–30 kg



Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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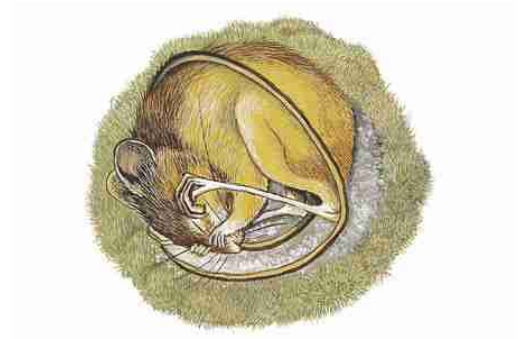
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Western Jumping Mouse
(Zapus princeps)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Dipodidae

Western Jumping Mice are common in meadows, streamsides, and marshes in northwestern mountains. They also occur in subalpine meadows, and are found at low densities in dry, low-elevation, grassy habitats. The Mice have one litter per year. The young nurse for about a month, and after weaning have a month and a half to eat seeds and put on the fat they need to hibernate. Their summer weight is 18–24 g; just before hibernation, they can weigh up to 35 g. Only about half the juveniles who enter hibernation survive the winter.



Zapus princeps – hibernating
Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Average: 231 mm
Range: 216–247 mm

Weight:
Range: 18–24 g



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North American Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)

ORDER: Rodentia

FAMILY: Erethizontidae

North American Porcupines are large, slow-moving, tree-climbing rodents, protected from predators by their formidable quills. In winter, they eat the bark, phloem, and cambium of trees, particularly conifers. In spring and summer, they mostly forage on the ground, feeding on grasses, sedges, acorns, and flowers. They readily consume crops or gnaw on automobile tires, so are sometimes regarded as pests. Porcupine young are exceptionally well developed at birth. Their eyes are open and they have teeth and even quills, which are soft at birth but harden within a few hours. Within a week, they can feed on their own. Few predators even try to kill Porcupines with any regularity, except one, the fisher. Fishers attack Porcupines from the front, grabbing them by the face, thus avoiding the quills. Porcupines do not throw their quills – which are modified hairs – but the quills pull loose from the Porcupine when they are stuck into an adversary, and they have barbed tips, so they are not easily removed.

Also known as:

Porc-epic, Hedgehog, Quillpig, Quiller

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are heavier than females.

Length:

Average: 772 mm

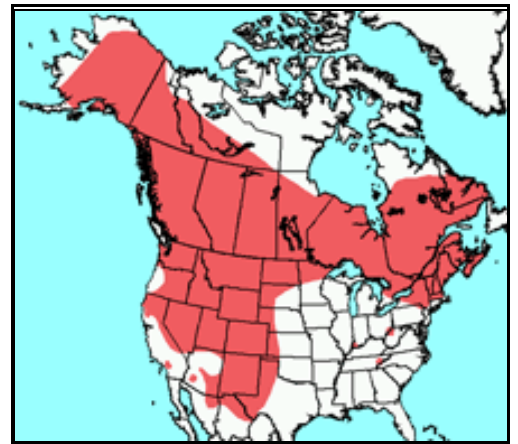
Range: 600–1,300 mm

Weight:

Range: 3.5–18 kg



Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Botta's Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys bottae*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Geomyidae

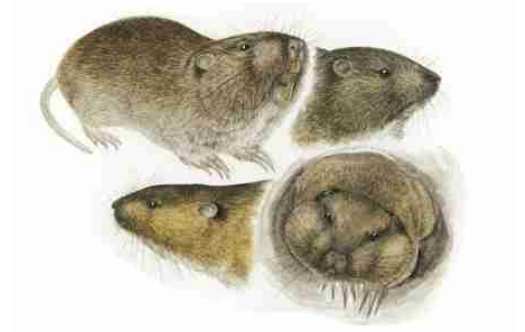
Pocket gophers dig with their front claws and with their teeth. A pocket gopher can close its mouth behind its front teeth, so it can dig without getting a mouthful of dirt. Its "pockets" are fur-lined, external cheek pouches, one on each side of its mouth, which it uses to transport food. Botta's Pocket Gopher has an extremely broad geographic range, and individuals vary widely in appearance: they can be nearly white, gray, brown, or blackish-brown. They vary in size, too. Males are larger than females. Males grow throughout their lives, whereas females stop growing after their first pregnancy, so older males can be much larger than females. Pocket gophers live in small, local populations, spending almost their entire lives underground in their network of burrows.

Also known as:
Valley Pocket Gopher

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Range: 170–280 mm males; 150–240 mm females

Weight:
Range: 110–250 g males; 80–160 g females



Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Northern Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys talpoides*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Geomyidae

Conservation Status: *Thomomys talpoides douglassi*, the Vancouver pocket gopher, is Vulnerable; *T. talpoides limosus*, Columbia River pocket gopher, and *T. talpoides segregatus*, Goat Mountain pocket gopher, are Near Threatened.

Of all North American pocket gophers, the Northern Pocket Gopher has the widest distribution, across most of the western United States and south-central Canada, and it occurs in the greatest variety of habitats. Only habitats with closed canopy and sparse groundcover are avoided. Northern Pocket Gophers are prodigious diggers, using both their front feet and their ever-growing incisors. Their burrow systems are elaborate, and depending on where they are, can be beneficial, aerating the soil, or a real problem for farmers.

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Range: 165–260 mm

Weight:
Range: 60–160 g



Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rat
(Dipodomys microps)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Heteromyidae

Conservation Status: The House Rock Valley kangaroo rat is Vulnerable.

The Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rat has chisel-shaped lower incisors, with which it strips the epidermis from the leaves of desert shadscale or saltbush, thereby reaching the palatable and water-rich interior of the leaf. This Kangaroo Rat eats more leaves than seeds, which is unusual for the genus. Its ability to subsist on perennial shrubs gives it an advantage when the climate does not support the growth of herbaceous vegetation. The species is common across the Great Basin of the western United States, and is also known as the Great Basin Kangaroo Rat.

Also known as:

Great Basin Kangaroo Rat, Small-faced Kangaroo Rat, Inyo Pocket Rat

Sexual Dimorphism:

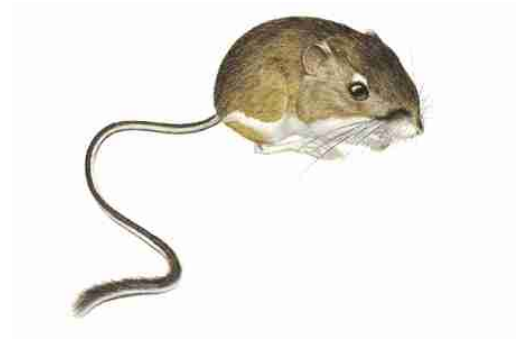
Males are larger than females.

Length:

Average: 270 mm
Range: 245–295 mm

Weight:

Average: 55 g
Range: 40–70 g



Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Ord's Kangaroo Rat
(Dipodomys ordii)

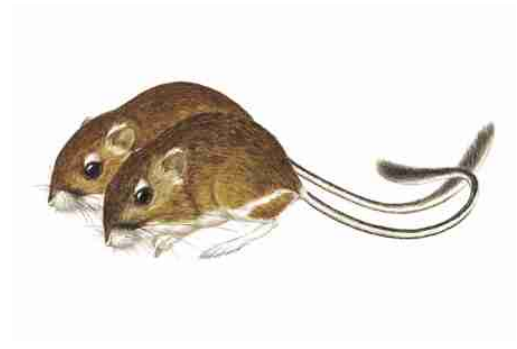
ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Heteromyidae

By occupying the short grass prairie of the Great Plains, and a variety of habitats where there are fine-textured, sandy soils, Ord's Kangaroo Rat has managed a truly enormous geographic distribution. The varied habitats that it occupies include semi-arid grasslands, mixed-grasslands, and scrublands. This ecological variation, together with the considerable geographic range, has contributed to the fact that more than 30 subspecies have been named. Ord's Kangaroo Rats are most active on cloudy nights. They usually stay in their burrows in bad weather and especially on clear, moonlit nights when owls can spot them most easily. Other predators include foxes, coyotes, badgers, and long-tailed weasels.

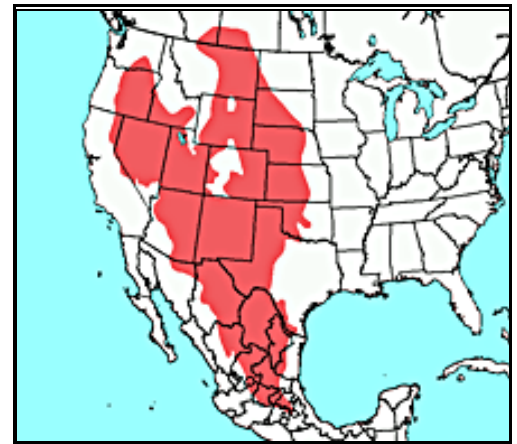
Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Average: 243 mm males; 242 mm females
Range: 210–365 mm males; 208–360 mm females

Weight:
Average: 52 g



Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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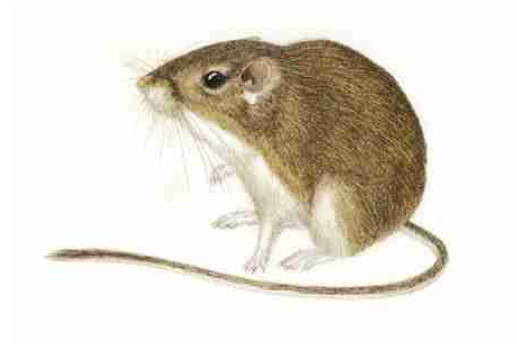
Great Basin Pocket Mouse
(Perognathus parvus)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Heteromyidae

The Great Basin Pocket Mouse is the largest member of the genus. It inhabits arid and semi-arid habitats in nearly the entire Great Basin region of western North America, particularly where sagebrush dominates the vegetation. The Mice increase the amount of water available from the small seeds they eat by storing them in the burrow, where humidity is higher than it is aboveground – the seeds actually absorb water while they are stored. Great Basin Pocket Mice become inactive from about November through March, entering torpor for long periods of time. The breeding season begins in April and ends as early as July in the northern part of the range, and as late as October farther south. Females have 1–3 litters of 2–8 young annually, though they may not breed during a drought.

Length:
Average: 174 mm males; 171 mm females
Range: 160–181 mm males; 160–190 mm females

Weight:
Average: 25.4 g males; 20.5 g females
Range: 21.5–31 g males; 16.5–28.5 g females



Credit: painting by Elizabeth McClelland from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Southern Red-backed Vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Conservation Status: The Kentucky red-backed vole (*C. gapperi maurus*) is Near Threatened.

Southern Red-backed Voles, like other voles, are active year-round. They do not hibernate or reduce their metabolism and enter a state of torpor to conserve energy against the cold. They breed from March through November, producing two or three litters of 4–5 young each year. By three months of age, the young voles are sexually mature and ready to reproduce. This species is semi-fossorial, using burrow systems built by other rodents and natural aboveground runways through logs, rocks, and roots of trees.

Also known as:

Red-backed Vole, Gapper's Red-backed Mouse, Boreal Red-backed Vole, Red-backed Mouse

Sexual Dimorphism:

None

Length:

Range: 116–172 mm

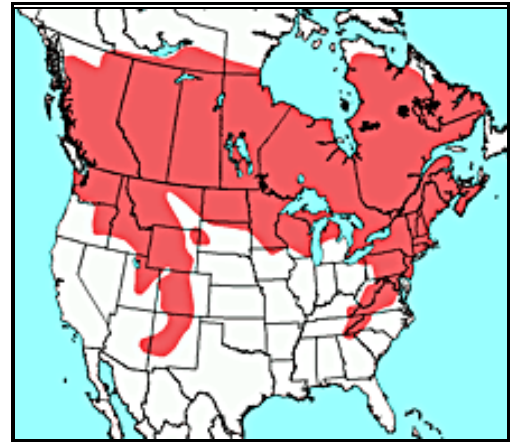
Weight:

Range: 6–42 g



Clethrionomys gapperi – grayish-brown and reddish variants

Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from *Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Sagebrush Vole
(Lemmyscus curtatus)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Sagebrush Voles usually live in colonies in semiarid, partly brushy habitat. The dominant plants where they live are sagebrush or rabbitbrush mixed with bunchgrass. A colony's network of burrows may have 8 to 30 entrances and interconnecting tunnels, which are often paved with grass or sage clippings. Sagebrush Voles eat a wide variety of fresh green vegetation. Unlike other rodents that live in dry habitats, they do not eat seeds or keep food stores. They are active year-round, at any time of day or night, but windy weather drives them belowground.

Sexual Dimorphism:
None

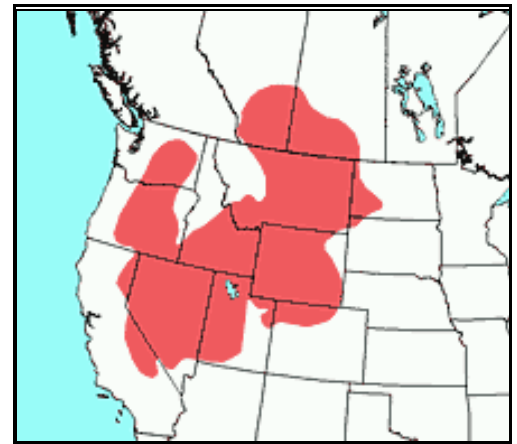
Length:
Range: 103–142 mm

Weight:
Range: 17–38 g



Lemmyscus curtatus – ash and buff variants

Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Long-tailed Vole
(Microtus longicaudus)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Long-tailed Voles need cool, moist habitats, so they are found mostly near the peaks of mountain ranges. Fruits and seeds make up the bulk of their diet, but they also eat fungi, bark, and leaves if necessary. Long-tailed Voles live less than one year on average, and females produce only two litters during that time, with an average of five pups per litter. Owls and hawks prey on them, as do some mammals, including martens, long-tailed weasels, and ermine.

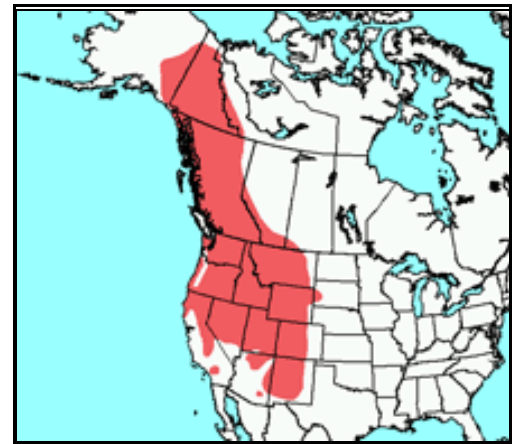


Microtus longicaudus – gray and brown variants
Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Range: 155–202 mm

Weight:
Range: 36–59 g



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Water Vole
(Microtus richardsoni)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Water Voles can swim and dive, and are always found near water, often near fast-running glacial or spring-fed streams. Captive young Voles swam voluntarily when they were only 17 days old, before they were even weaned. Water Voles live in alpine and sub-alpine meadows, usually at elevations between about 900 and 3,200 m. They are not known to cross valleys or expanses of forest to move from one habitat to another. They use underground nests year-round, but nests are also found on the surface after snowmelt. These may have been used during the winter, or may have been built when melting snow flooded tunnels. Water Voles do not store food, but consume dry portions of herbaceous vegetation, root buds, rhizomes, and corms (starchy underground stems) in winter, and eat seeds and bulbs in summer.



Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:

Richardson's Water Vole, Richardson Vole, Richardson's Meadow Vole, Richardson Meadow Mouse, Water Rat, Big-footed Mouse, Giant Water Vole

Sexual Dimorphism:

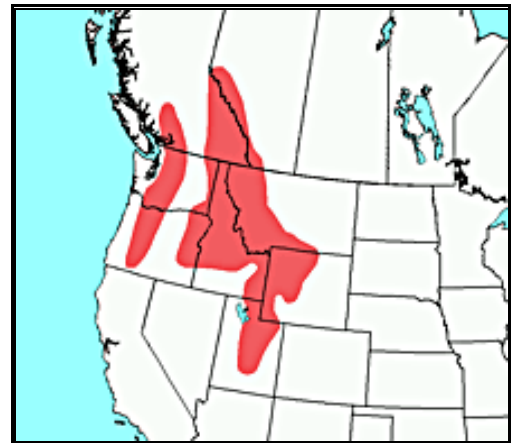
Males are larger than females.

Length:

Average: 252 mm
Range: 234–274 mm

Weight:

Range: 72–150 g males; 68–140 g females



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Bushy-tailed Woodrat

(Neotoma cinerea)

ORDER: Rodentia

FAMILY: Muridae

Bushy-tailed Woodrats are highly territorial. A male will permit a female in his territory, but not another male. Both males and females mark their territories with a musky substance that can leave both scent and white color on rock ridges. The Woodrats make piles of vegetation and various collected items, and these materials can accumulate into middens of substantial size. The animals defecate and urinate on some of them, and those that bake in the sun can become rock-hard and last for tens of thousands of years. Paleobotanists using information from ancient middens have gained tremendous insight into the botanical history of the vast arid areas inhabited by woodrats.

Also known as:

Bushy-tailed Packrat

Length:

Average: 379 mm males; 356 mm females

Range: 310-470 mm males; 272-410 mm females

Weight:

Average: 337 g males; 275 g females

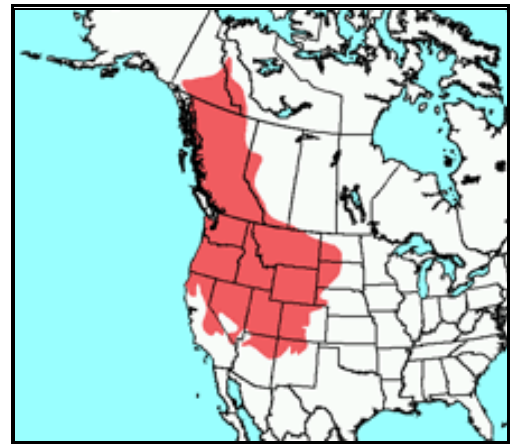
Range: 181-585 g males; 166-370 g females



Neotoma cinerea – darker coat on left (cooler climates),

lighter coat on right

Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Desert Woodrat
(Neotoma lepida)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Desert Woodrats inhabit scrublands in desert and semi-desert areas. Unlike some other rodents living in regions with limited water resources, the Desert Woodrat does not have water-conserving physiological adaptations. The Woodrats solve this problem by eating succulent leaves, which provide the large amount of water they require. They often build their nests in clumps of plants of the agave family and prickly-pear cactus, which can provide them with both food and water. They defecate and urinate on their piles of stored plant material. Some of these dry and harden and last for tens of thousands of years, giving scientists a picture of what plant life was like in the region thousands of years ago. Desert Woodrats occur with other species of rodents, nearly all of them smaller. Their size and more aggressive nature give them an advantage over their neighbors in gaining access to nutrient-rich vegetation.



Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Desert Packrat

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Range: 225–383 mm

Weight:
Range: 130–160 g



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Muskrat
(Ondatra zibethicus)

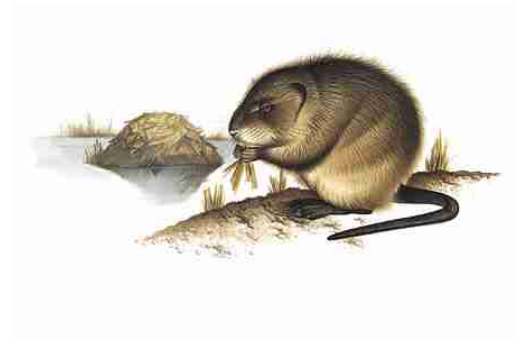
ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Musk rats, so-called for their odor, which is especially evident during the breeding season, are highly successful semi-aquatic rodents. They occur in both brackish and freshwater lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, and marshes throughout much of North America, except in parts of the South where tidal fluctuation, periodic flooding, or drought limit their distribution. Muskrats have a variety of aquatic adaptations, including a rudder-like tail that is flattened side-to-side, partially webbed hind feet, and fur that traps air for insulation and buoyancy. Because their fur has commercial importance, they were taken to Japan, South America, Scandinavia, and Russia, and there are now feral populations in some places where they were introduced.

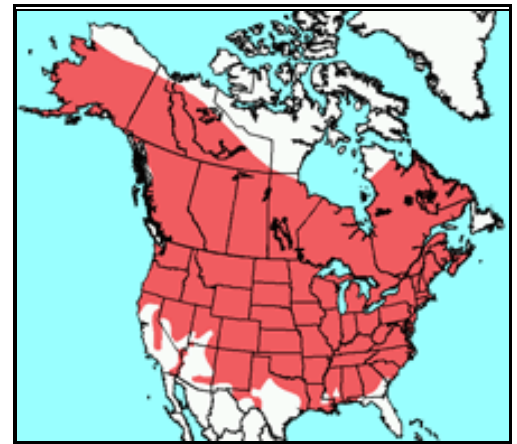
Also known as:
Mudcat, Muskbeaver, Musquash

Length:
Range: 410–620 mm

Weight:
Range: 680–1,800 g



Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Northern Grasshopper Mouse
(Onychomys leucogaster)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Northern Grasshopper Mice are highly predatory, and their skulls and teeth resemble those of flesh-eating carnivores such as cats and dogs. Their forelimbs, equipped with elongated fingers and claws, have developed great dexterity, so they are able to manipulate captured prey. These Mice have a complex social system, using howling vocalizations to broadcast information on sex, identity, body size, and location. Grasshopper Mice prey primarily on grasshoppers, crickets, and beetles, yet they incorporate some seeds into their diet, presumably a dietary preference retained from a seed-eating ancestry.

Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Range: 119–190 mm

Weight:
Range: 26–49 g



Onychomys leucogaster – gray (left) and cinnamon (right) variations
Credit: painting by Ron Klinger from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Brush Mouse
(Peromyscus boylii)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Brush Mice occupy rocky and brushy or forested environments in which rock ledges, piles of brush, fallen trees, and boulders offer shelter and denning sites. Although they are reportedly good climbers, they only occasionally build their nests in tree cavities. Within their enormous range, these Mice are found only at elevations above 2,000 m. They consume many kinds of nuts, seeds, and fruit, including grass seeds, acorns, pine nuts, hackberries, juniper berries, and fir seeds.

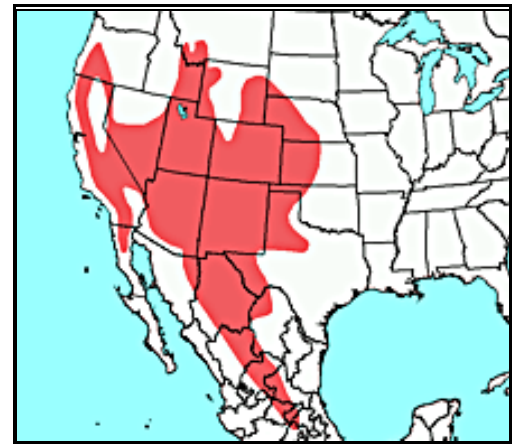
Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Average: 194 mm
Range: 175–210 mm

Weight:
Range: 22–36 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Deermouse

(*Peromyscus maniculatus*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Conservation Status: Two subspecies (*P. maniculatus anacapae*, the Anacapa Deermouse, and *P. maniculatus clementis*, the San Clemente Deermouse) are Near Threatened.

Deermice rarely leave their homes during the day, but feed opportunistically at night on whatever is available: seeds, nuts, fruit, berries, insects and other animal matter, and whatever they find tasty in houses. Deermice have the most extensive range of any North American rodent, and are found in almost every kind of habitat. They climb easily, tunnel through snow or scurry about on its surface, and find shelter everywhere from mattresses to tree cavities to burrows in the ground. Populations fluctuate in cycles of three to five years, sometimes correlated with the amount of food available. The Deermouse is important as a laboratory animal, and can be a factor in the spread of some human diseases, including hantavirus, plague, and Lyme disease.

Also known as:

Wood Mouse, Woodland Deermouse, Prairie Deermouse

Length:

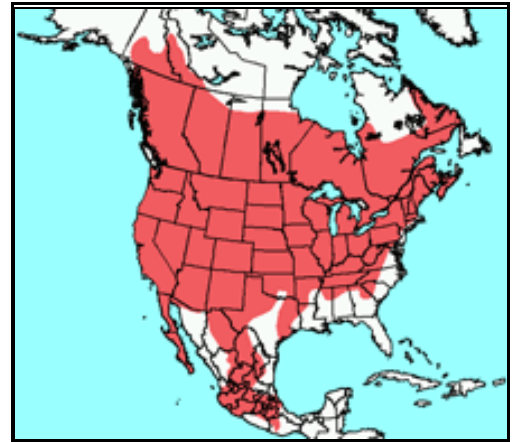
Range: 120–225 mm

Weight:

Range: 10–30 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Pinyon Mouse (*Peromyscus truei*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Conservation Status: The subspecies *P. truei comanche*, the Palo Duro mouse, is Near Threatened.

Pinyon Mice reproduce from mid-February through mid-November, giving birth to litters of 3–6 blind, hairless young that weigh about 2.3 g each. The young have fur by the time they are two weeks old. At about 16–21 days, their eyes open and their ears unfold. They nurse for 3–4 weeks; sometimes a female becomes pregnant while she is still nursing a litter. These Mice are common in arid and semi-arid regions in the West, at elevations from sea level to more than 2,300 m. They are found most often among rocks where pinyon pine and juniper grow, but are not limited to this habitat.

Also known as:
Big-eared Cliff Mouse, Palo Duro Mouse

Sexual Dimorphism:
None

Length:
Average: 195 mm
Range: 171–231 mm

Weight:
Range: 15–50 g



Peromyscus truei – color variations: yellowish-brown (left) and grayish-brown (right)
Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Western Harvest Mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Muridae

Western Harvest Mouse are adaptable, widespread, and abundant, especially in meadows, prairies, old pastures, stream valleys, and marshes. They eat seeds, insects, and plants. They rarely live for more than a year, but under optimal conditions, a female can produce more than 50 young in her lifetime. Their nests are built of plant material, usually on the ground, but sometimes in burrows or in vegetation slightly above the ground. Each mouse may have several nests, which it uses at different times. The Mice are nonterritorial and show a great deal of tolerance for one another, even huddling together when it is cold. Such intimate contact carries risks: they are afflicted with many parasites, including protozoans, worms, fleas, chiggers, mites, and lice. They are a vector for a hantavirus that can cause acute respiratory illness and hemorrhagic fever in humans.

Also known as:

Long-tailed Harvest Mouse, Desert Harvest Mouse, Dusky Harvest Mouse

Sexual Dimorphism:

None

Length:

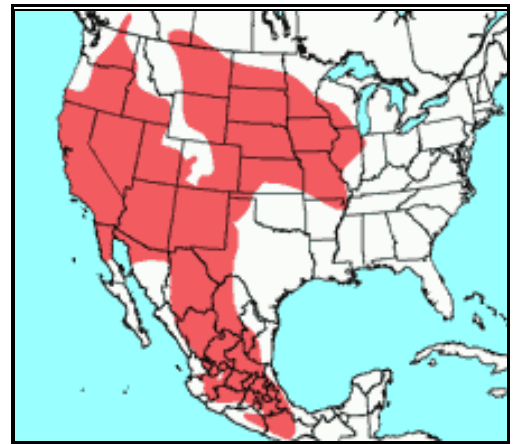
Average: 140 mm
Range: 118–170 mm

Weight:

Range: 8–15 g



Credit: painting by Wendy Smith from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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White-tailed Antelope Squirrel
(Ammospermophilus leucurus)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

White-tailed Antelope Squirrels can often be seen in western and southwestern deserts, especially in shrubby areas with rocky soil. They do not hibernate, but in cold winter weather several may huddle together in a burrow to keep warm. They breed from February to June, producing litters of 5–14 offspring. The young begin to appear aboveground when they are about six or seven weeks old, and nurse for about two months. Adults eat both plant matter and insects.



Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:

White-tailed Antelope Ground Squirrel, White-tailed Ground Squirrel, Antelope Chipmunk

Sexual Dimorphism:

None

Length:

Average: 211 mm
Range: 188–239 mm

Weight:

Average: 105 g
Range: 96–117 g



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White-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys leucurus*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

White-tailed prairie dogs are threatened in many places because they have been the target of pest control programs. They live in burrow colonies made up of groups of females and young. Males have few group interactions. They set up their own territories, which they defend throughout the year, but allow females to enter during the breeding season. Badgers, coyotes, bobcats, weasels, foxes, black-footed ferrets, eagles, and hawks all prey upon white-tailed prairie dogs.

Sexual Dimorphism:

Males are larger than females.

Length:

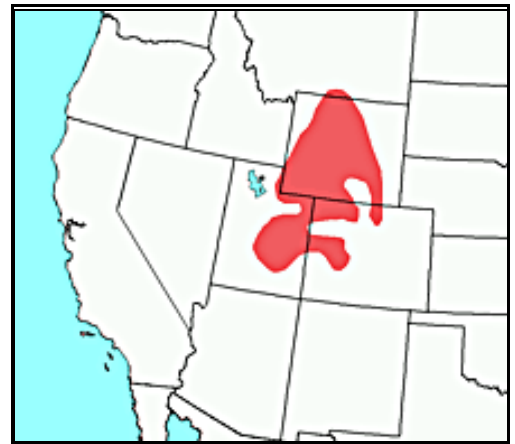
Average: 366.6 mm males; 348.8 mm females
Range: 352–390 mm males; 322–375 mm females

Weight:

Average: 1,239 g males; 868 g females
Range: 850–1,675 g males; 705–1,050 g females



Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Yellow-bellied Marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

The Yellow-bellied Marmot has the thickset build characteristic of the genus. Its fur is relatively long and coarse, with buffy to yellowish hair running from the sides of the neck down along the chest. Because they favor herbaceous plants, their population density is often affected by the presence or absence of large grass-eating mammals. A moderate degree of grazing can increase the supply of the marmots' preferred herbs. Heavy grazing can reduce their food supply, if the grazing animals eat both grasses and herbs. Little or no grazing can also reduce the abundance of herbs because grasses out-compete herbs for space and soil nutrients. Yellow-bellied Marmots spend their summer days sunning (if the weather permits), grooming, and foraging. In hibernation, they depend for months on the fat stored in their bodies. Marmots that enter hibernation well-fattened have the best chance of surviving until spring.

Also known as:
Rockchuck

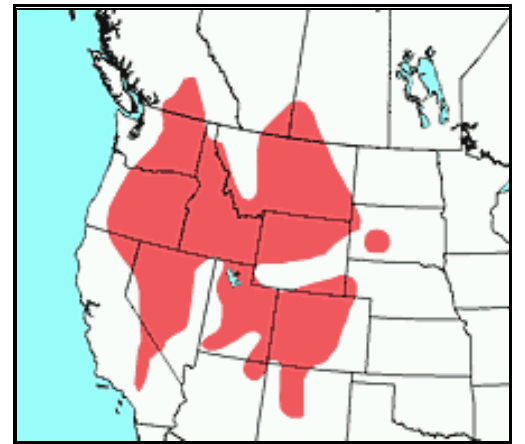
Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Average: 618 mm males; 574 mm females
Range: 490–618 mm males; 470–670 mm females

Weight:
Range: 3–5.2 kg males; 1.6–4 kg females



Marmota flaviventris – lower right (with *M. caligata* – upper right) and *M. olympus* (left)
Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
(Spermophilus lateralis)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

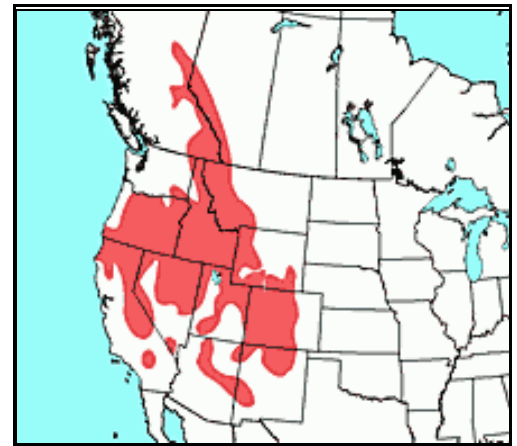
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels are familiar residents of open woodlands, brushy forest-edge habitats, dry margins of mountain meadows, and rocky slopes. They are quick to invade sunny, disturbed areas where pioneer plants provide good food resources. Because they have a stripe on the flank, they are sometimes mistaken for chipmunks, but the stripe does not continue onto the cheek as it does in *Tamias* species. Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels are solitary burrow-dwellers. They eat almost anything, including fungi, a variety of plants, fruits, and seeds, insects in all life-cycle stages, nestling birds and eggs, small mammals, and carrion. They hibernate from late summer through early spring, and like other hibernating mammals, put on fat reserves beforehand.

Length:
Average: 275 mm
Range: 245-295 mm

Weight:
Range: 175-350 g



Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Rock Squirrel
(Spermophilus variegatus)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

Rock squirrels, with their long, bushy tails, look very much like tree squirrels, but seldom climb trees. They are most commonly found in rocky habitats—canyons, cliffs, and hillsides. Occasionally a nest is found in a tree, but they usually dig burrows, choosing a place that offers a near-by lookout where they can watch for danger. Other mammals and even burrowing owls are known to use their dens if the squirrels abandon them. The rock squirrel's geographic range is large, and it is found at elevations from sea level to 2,900 m. Females produce one litter a year in places or at elevations where winter weather lasts longer, and two in warmer parts of their range.

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Range: 466–503 mm

Weight:
Range: 450–875 g



Image shows variable amounts of black coloration in species
Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Cliff Chipmunk
(Tamias dorsalis)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

Cliff chipmunk fossils about 2,300 and 8,000 years old have been found in caves in Utah and Nevada. The chipmunks still live in those states, in habitats where sagebrush, fourwing saltbush, chokecherry, wild rose, and cliffrose grow. In other parts of their range, they are found with a wide variety of plants, and their diets include seeds and fruits from many kinds of grasses, shrubs, forbs, and trees. They also feed on insects, frogs, salamanders, snakes, birds, and eggs. Four other chipmunk species share parts of their range. Where one or more other species occurs on a mountain, the cliff chipmunk usually is found at the lowest elevation, but where none of the others occurs, cliff chipmunks range right to the top of the mountain.

Also known as:

Gray Chipmunk, Gray-backed Chipmunk, Gila Striped Chipmunk, Pallid Chipmunk, Chichimoke, Chichimuka

Sexual Dimorphism:

Females are slightly larger than males.

Length:

Average: 217 mm males; 222 mm females
Range: 204–226 mm males; 212–235 mm females

Weight:

Average: 59.5 g males; 62.9 g females
Range: 54.5–63.8 g males; 58.8–66.7 g females;



Tamias dorsalis – winter coloration on left, summer on right
Credit: painting by Nancy Halliday from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Least Chipmunk (*Tamias minimus*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

Conservation Status: The New Mexico Least Chipmunk, *Tamias minimus atristratus*, is Critically Endangered; the Selkirk least chipmunk, *Tamias minimus selkirki*, is Vulnerable.

The least chipmunk is the smallest and most widely distributed North American chipmunk. It occurs in a variety of habitats, from coniferous forests to meadows to sagebrush desert, feeding primarily on seeds but also eating flowers, buds, leaves, grasses, fungi, and even insects, eggs, and carrion. Least chipmunks are diurnal, like all ground-dwelling members of squirrel family. They retreat to their burrows at night and spend the winter underground, periodically waking up to feed on stored food. They scatter-hoard, storing seeds all over the place, so they unwittingly help many species of plants sprout in new places.

Sexual Dimorphism:

Females are slightly larger than males.

Length:

Average: 201 mm
Range: 185–216 mm

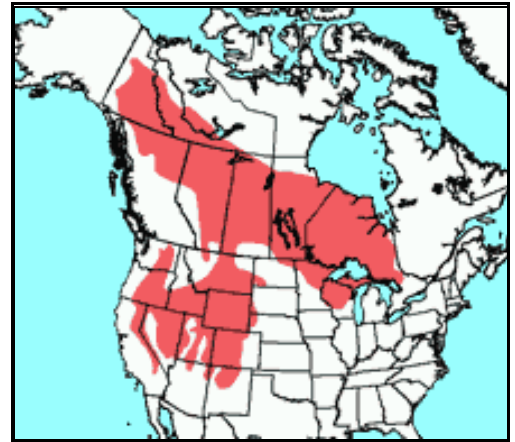
Weight:

Average: 43.6 g
Range: 32–50 g



Tamias minimus ssp. *scrutator* (upper left) and *T. minimus* ssp. *silvaticus* (lower right)

Credit: painting by Nancy Halliday from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Uinta Chipmunk
(Tamias umbrinus)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

Conservation Status: *Tamias umbrinus nevadensis*, the Hidden Forest Chipmunk, is Critically Endangered.

Uinta chipmunks are common in coniferous forests, especially at elevations higher than 1,800 m. They readily climb trees and shrubs to forage for seeds, and often sleep in trees. Females use tree cavities, and sometimes even take over abandoned birds' nests, to raise their young. Uinta chipmunks are found in several widely-separated populations, isolated on mountaintops surrounded by desert habitat the chipmunks cannot cross. Over the next many thousands of years, these disjunct populations may evolve into separate species.

Sexual Dimorphism:
Females are significantly larger than males.

Length:
Average: 224.6 mm
Range: 210–240 mm

Weight:
Average: 59.3 g
Range: 51–74 g



Credit: painting by Nancy Halliday from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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Red Squirrel

(*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)

ORDER: Rodentia
FAMILY: Sciuridae

Conservation Status: The Mount Graham red squirrel, *T. hudsonicus grahamensis*, is Critically Endangered.

Red Squirrels are very vocal. They bark at intruders, including humans, and can bark continuously for more than an hour if they are annoyed. They also chatter, especially to stake out a territory and protect their stored food supply (conifer cones, which they harvest in great numbers) from other squirrels. They are especially noisy during the breeding season, when they chase each other through tree branches making a distinctive call that sounds almost like the buzz of cicadas. They readily nest in attics and cabins, and are trapped for their fur.

Also known as:

Pine Squirrel, Chickaree, Barking Squirrel, Mountain Boomer, Boomer

Length:

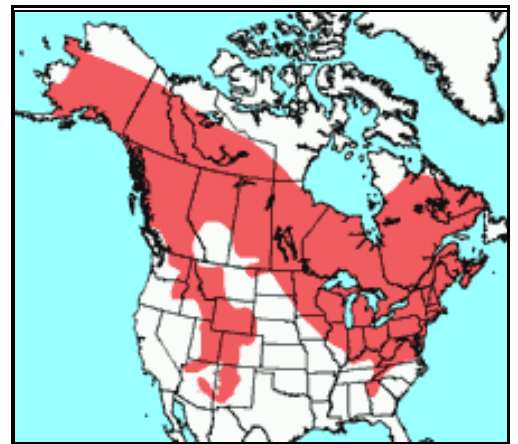
Range: 280–350 mm

Weight:

Range: 140–250 g



Tamiasciurus hudsonicus – lower three images: white eye ring is distinctive in all seasons; summer coloration on left, winter coloration in center. (*T. douglassii* is above)
Credit: painting by Todd Zalewski from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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