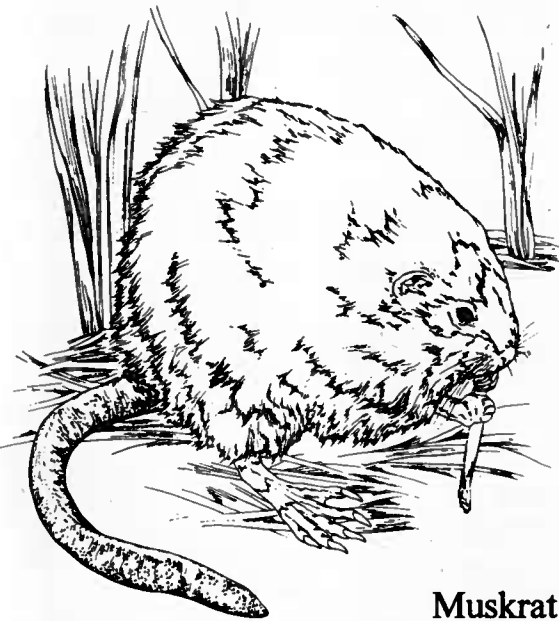


CHECKLIST OF MAMMALS

The 27 species in bold print are officially* documented species at VBSNA. The six species in regular print are believed to occur but have yet to be confirmed.

☐ Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
☐ Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
☐ Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>
☐ Northern Short-tailed Shrew	
	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>
☐ Least Shrew	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>
☐ Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>
☐ Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>
☐ Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>
☐ Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>
☐ Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>
☐ Evening Bat	<i>Nycticeius humeralis</i>
☐ Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
☐ Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
☐ Ground Hog (Woodchuck)	
	<i>Marmota monax</i>
☐ Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	
	<i>Spermophilus tridecemlineatus</i>
☐ Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
☐ Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>
☐ Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>
☐ Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
☐ Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
☐ White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
☐ Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
☐ Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>
☐ Meadow Jumping Mouse	
	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>
☐ Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
☐ Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>
☐ Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
☐ Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>
☐ Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
☐ Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
☐ Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
☐ Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
☐ White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>

MAMMALS



Muskrat
Ondatra zibethica

VOLO BOG
state natural area

28478 W. Brandenburg Rd.
Ingleside, IL 60041
(815) 344-1294

An Illinois Department of Natural Resources Site
Printing funded by the Friends of Volo Bog
Written and Designed by Stacy L. Iwanicki, Naturalist

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and Wild Mammals of Illinois, an IDNR Kids for Conservation publication
Updated 2009

WHAT IS A MAMMAL?

Mammals are endothermic "warm-blooded" animals with fur or hair. They feed their young milk produced by the female's mammary glands.

Illinois has 62 species of mammals with Volo Bog having 27 species known to occur and an additional 6 that are believed to occur but are not yet confirmed. Because of Illinois' central geographic location in North America, we have a variety of biomes and thus a great variety of species, including some whose geographic distribution is centered elsewhere.

Most mammals are nocturnal (only 10 Illinois mammals are diurnal) and small, and are therefore not a conspicuous part of our landscape. Those wishing to observe mammals must be quiet and patient and learn when, where and how to look. This brochure gives some signs and other clues that should help. The following resources are also recommended:

- Mammals of Illinois*
by Donald F. Hoffmeister
- The Wild Mammals of Missouri*
by Charles W. and Elizabeth R. Schwartz
- Mammals of Wisconsin*
by Hartley H. T. Jackson
- Mammals - A Peterson Field Guide*
by W. H. Burt and R. P. Grossenheider
- Field Guide to North American Mammals*
by The National Audubon Society
- A Guide to Animal Tracking and Behavior*
by Donald and Lillian Stokes
- Tracking and the Art of Seeing*
by Paul Rezendes
- Wild Mammals of Illinois*
a curriculum by IDNR Kids for Conservation

OPOSSUM

Family Didelphidae

4 - 8 pounds
Woods, shrubby areas, stream courses, fence rows, suburbs



North America's only marsupial, this pouched mammal gives birth to 20 or more barely developed young, of which only about 13 survive due to the number of teats available in the mother's pouch. Opossums are opportunistic omnivores eating meat scavenged from road-kill, berries, nuts, insects; often visit "bird feeders."

SHREWS

Family Soricidae

1/8 - 1 ounce (depends on species)
forest floor with heavy leaf litter and decaying logs; also grassy areas

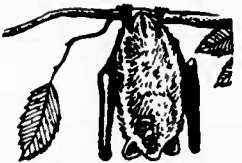


Among N.A.'s smallest land mammals, shrews have such a high metabolism they must eat about every 3 hours, day & night. Diet is mostly insects, spiders, snails, earthworms and other invertebrates but also small mammals. Some plant material is consumed but may be incidental or a product of prey's last meal.

BATS

Family Vespertilionidae

1/4 - 1/2 ounce
open woods, stream corridors, established neighborhoods



VBSNA is home to Illinois' largest known maternity colony of little brown bats. Bats are the only mammals that truly fly. All 13 Illinois bats are insectivores, eating mosquitoes, moths and other insects. Most species give birth to just one young each year. Watch for bats just after sunset. Bats are true hibernators.

EASTERN COTTONTAIL

Family Leporidae (RABBIT)

2 - 3 1/4 lbs with female heavier
Fence rows, suburban yards, grassy and shrubby areas



This herbivore is in a family that includes the hares. Rabbits eat grasses & herbaceous plants throughout the growing season and woody vegetation in winter. They mate several times per year, producing up to 6 young per litter; 25 per year! Presence is revealed in winter by unique track patterns and "coco puff" scats.

* Documented from common, regular sightings by site staff, on-site specimens & museum specimens noted in:
Mammals of Illinois by Donald F. Hoffmeister
University of Illinois Press, 1989.

EASTERN CHIPMUNK

Family Sciuridae

2 - 5 ounces
small woodlots, wood
edges, suburban yards



Usually herbivorous, preferring nuts, seeds, fruits, fungi, flowers & buds, these rodents will also eat snails, insects and even frogs. Litters of 2 - 6 are produced twice each year. Golf-ball sized tunnels meander for 20 - 30 feet and go down about 2.5 feet to a chamber where young are raised and animals spend winter.

GROUNDHOG a.k.a. WOODCHUCK

Family Sciuridae

4 - 14 pounds (heaviest before hibernation)
fields, brushy areas,
woodland edges, fencerows



General contractors of the burrowing world, groundhogs will dig extensive tunnel systems with two or more entrances. Little time is spent above ground each day where they eat grasses, clovers, ferns, leaves of trees and shrubs, fruit and bark. These rodents are one of Illinois' few true hibernators.

THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL

Family Sciuridae

4 - 5 ounces (to 9 oz. in fall before hibernation)
open short grass habitats such as parks,
cemeteries, roadways, airports, golf courses



Mistakenly called gophers, these rodents dig their shallow (to 1.5 feet) burrows where they can sit up and look over the tops of vegetation. Burrow entrances have no conspicuous mounds as they disperse the soil. Preferred foods include grasses, weeds, seeds, insects & earthworms. 13-liners are true hibernators.

GRAY AND FOX SQUIRRELS

Family Sciuridae

Gray = 3/4 - 1 1/2 pounds; Fox = 1 - 3 pounds
woodlands, forests, suburbs;
anywhere there are large trees



Grays prefer brushy understory; fox more savannah-like openness. Grays however, have adapted to open tree habitats of suburbs. Prefer to nest in a tree cavity; if these lack, a leaf nest is constructed. Both species are omnivores, eating nuts, fruit, seeds, insects & bird eggs. Grays are white underneath; foxes orange.

BEAVER

Family Castoridae

26 - 90 pounds
marshes, streams, rivers,
ponds, lakes, canals, backwaters



Beaver lodges, made of logs, house up to 10 beavers: 2 adults, 4 yearlings and 4 young-of-the-year. Dam is built to maintain water deep enough for lodge entrance to be underwater. Diet includes cattails, arrowheads, young twigs of willow, dogwood, etc & the inner bark of trees. Must chew wood to keep incisors short.

DEER & WHITE-FOOTED MICE

Family Muridae

4/10 - 1 ounce
Deer - nearly every habitat
White-footed - grasslands & prairies



Both species are omnivorous, preferring seeds, but also eating grasses, insects (especially larvae) and spiders. Breed throughout much of year, producing up to 4 litters averaging 3 - 4 young each. High reproductive rate compensates for losses to foxes, coyotes, snakes, hawks, owls and other predators.

MEADOW VOLE

Family Muridae

3/4 - 2 ounces
moist grassy areas, marshes

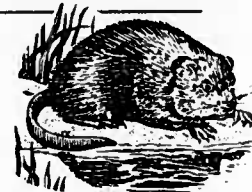


This dark grey rodent is stockier and larger than mice and has a shorter tail. Belly is blackish with a whitish or creamy venter area. Like mice, they are omnivores but eat mostly herbaceous vegetation; in winter, roots & seeds. Tunnels through grass mats, under ground and under the snow conceal voles from predators.

MUSKRAT

Family Muridae

1 1/2 - 4 pounds
marshes, shallow lakes & ponds
streams & ditches



More closely related to voles than to beavers, this rodent is also aquatic. Lodges are made of herbaceous vegetation, mainly cattails. Will burrow into stream, river & lake banks. Muskrats do not build dams. Their diet consists of cattails, arrowheads and other soft vegetation accented by snails, crayfish, etc...

RED & GRAY FOX

Family Canidae

Red = 8 - 15 pounds; Gray = 5 - 14 pounds
Red prefers woodland edge & open fields
Gray prefers woodland interior, edge & brushy fields

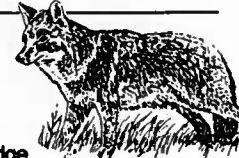


Red is circumpolar (indigenous to Northern Eurasia as well as North America); gray is strictly North American. Red benefits from human changes to the landscape; gray tends to suffer. Grays can climb trees. Both are omnivores eating rabbits, mice, birds, insects, fruit, nuts, etc... Red fox averages 5 kits; gray averages 4.

COYOTE

Family Canidae

18 - 40 pounds
Prefers brushy country, woodland edge
& open farmland and easily adapts to the edges of suburbia



In spite of historic attempts to eradicate the coyote with poisons, traps and aerial hunts, this adaptable canine is expanding its range. Revered as the Trickster in Native American folklore, the coyote is adept at catching rabbits, rodents, birds and insects. Also eats grass, berries, corn, and deer meat (mostly road-kill).

MINK

Family Mustelidae

1 1/4 - 2 pounds
streams, rivers, lakeshores, ponds, marshes



The largest weasel, mink live where there is permanent water, nesting in bank burrows or old muskrat lodges, raising 3 - 6 young each spring. Strictly carnivorous, their diet includes muskrats, frogs, fish, small rodents, rabbits, crayfish, ducks & occasionally chickens. Plant material may be ingested through prey's last meal.

WEASELS

Family Mustelidae

least: 1 1/3 - 1 3/4 ounces
long-tailed: 2 1/2 - 8 3/4 ounces
habitat varies including grassy, brushy habitats



Like mink, weasels are carnivorous, consuming small rodents, birds, snakes and insects with the larger long-tailed also consuming rabbits and larger birds. Weasels don't dig tunnels but build nests in other animals' burrows or log piles. Long-taileds mate in summer, have delayed embryo development & give birth in April. Least mate and birth mainly in spring.

STRIPED SKUNK

Family Mustelidae

3 1/2 - 10 pounds
woodland edges, fencerows, brushy areas
preferring to be near permanent water



The black & white pelage is a warning coloration. If a perceived enemy is not convinced, the skunk will lift its tail then go into a handstand before spraying its defensive musk. Omnivorous, skunks prefer invertebrates which make up the bulk of their summer diet. They also eat fruits, nuts, grains, mushrooms, birds, eggs, small mammals and carrion. A litter averaging 4 - 6 young is born in late spring.

RACCOON

Family Procyonidae

7 - 30+ pounds
Habitat varies but must have
source of permanent water nearby

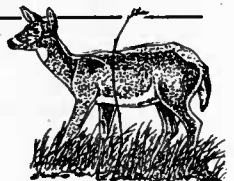


The highly adaptable raccoon can live just about anywhere and eat just about anything. Grapes, osage oranges, blackberries, grasses & sedges, corn, nuts, crayfish, bird eggs, clams, fish, frogs, turtles, snakes, snails, earthworms, insects, spiders, injured animals, "road-kill" and bologna sandwiches are all fair game! Litters averaging 3 - 4 young are born in spring. Later litters may be result of a female not becoming pregnant earlier or losing a spring litter.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Family Cervidae

100 - 300+ pounds
Woodlands, woodland edge



Deer benefit from human landscapes. Without natural predators like wolves and bobcats, deer populations often exceed the land's natural carrying capacity. Native wildflowers and suburban gardens both suffer the effects of this herbivore. Hunters and automobiles are now the main "predators" on deer. Coyotes consume deer meat obtained mainly from road-kill and from injured and young deer. One fawn (sometimes two, rarely up to four) is born in spring. Preferred foods include leaves, twigs, fruit, grass & nuts.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Opportunity Officer, IDNR, 524 S. 2nd, Springfield, IL 62701-1787; TTY (217) 782-9175.