

## GRASSLAND MAMMALS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

\* = Illinois endangered species list; \*\* = threatened in Illinois; # = federally endangered, @ = extirpated

♠ = Prairie specialist                      ♦ = Habitat generalist that may be found prairie

✓ = slide: identify by common name

Numbers following family name indicate number genera/species.

### INSECTIVORES

#### A. FAMILY SORICIDAE: SHREWS

24/300 Worldwide except Antarctica, Australia, central & southern South America.

- no auditory bullae
- eyes and ears are small

1. ✓ 1. *Blarina brevicauda*: northern short-tailed shrew ♦
2. *Sorex cinereus*: masked shrew ♦
3. *Sorex hoyi*: pigmy shrew
4. *Cryptotis parva*: least shrew

#### B. FAMILY TALPIDAE (MOLES)

12/22 N. America & Eurasia.

- forefoot usually broad, paddle-shaped, adapted for digging
- pinna (external ear) very small or absent

2. ✓ 1. *Scalopus aquaticus*: eastern mole ♦

### CARNIVORES

#### A. FAMILY CANIDAE (DOGS, WOLVES, FOXES, AND JACKALS)

14/35 Worldwide except Antarctica and most oceanic islands.

- tail long, bushy
- skull elongate, rostrum relatively long and narrow

3. ✓ 1. *Canis latrans*: coyote ♦
2. *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*: gray fox
4. ✓ 3. *Vulpes vulpes*: red fox (formily *V. fulva*) ♦
5. ✓ 4. *Canis lupus*: gray wolf @

**B. FAMILY PROCYONIDAE (RACCOONS AND ALLIES)**

7/18 Exclusively N. & S. America except one genus in South East Asia.

- tail long, usually ringed in alternating black and light-colored bands

1. *Procyon lotor*: raccoon ◆

**C. FAMILY MUSTELIDAE (WEASELS, OTTERS, SKUNKS, BADGERS)**

25/70 Worldwide except Antarctica, Australia, and most oceanic islands

- tail variable but usually long
- skull blocky, robust, often flattened; rostrum short

- 6.✓ 1. *Mustela frenata*: long-tailed weasel ◆  
 7.✓ 2. *Mustela nivalis*: least weasel (formerly *M. rixosa*) ◆  
 3. *Mustela vison*: mink  
 8.✓ 4. *Taxidea taxus*: badger ♠  
 9.✓ 5. *Mephitis mephitis*: striped skunk ◆  
 6. *Lutra canadensis*: river otter\*

**D. FAMILY FELIDAE (CATS)**

4/35 Worldwide except Antarctica, Australia, and some islands.

- claws sharp, strongly curved, retractile
- skull short, rounded dorsally; rostrum very short and blunt

1. *Lynx rufus*: Bobcat (formerly in the genus *Felis*)\*\*

**RODENTS****A. FAMILY SCIURIDAE (SQUIRRELS, CHIPMUNKS; MARMOTS )**

49/267 Worldwide except Australian region, Madagascar, and polar regions.

- tail relatively short to long, often bushy
- digits 4-5, not webbed

- 10.✓ 1. *Marmota monax*: woodchuck ◆  
 2. *Sciurus carolinensis*: gray squirrel  
 11.✓ 3. *Sciurus niger*: fox squirrel  
 12.✓ 4. *Spermophilus franklinii*: Franklin's ground squirrel ♠  
 13.✓ 5. *Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*: thirteen-lined ground squirrel ♠

## B. FAMILY GEOMYIDAE (POCKET GOPHERS)

5/75 Southern Canada to northern South America.

- cheek pouches with external opening
- tail short, scantily haired, not scaly
- pinnae very reduced
- top incisors with groove

14.✓ 1. *Geomys bursarius*: plains pocket gopher ♠

## C. FAMILY CASTORIDAE (BEAVERS)

1/2 Most common in N. America north of Mexico, also in Europe, northern Asia, and Siberia.

- tail large, broad and flat, mostly naked and scaly
- hindfeet webbed

1. *Castor canadensis*: beaver

## D. FAMILY MURIDAE, SUBFAMILY SIGMODONTINAE: NEW WORLD RATS AND MICE, HAMSTERS, GERBILS, AND ALLIES

69/366 Worldwide except Austro-Malayan region, Antarctica, and some islands. Recognized as a separate family (Cricetidae) by some authors.

- tails mostly covered with short hair
- ears and eyes large

15.✓ 1. *Peromyscus leucopus*: white-footed mouse ♦

16.✓ 2. *Peromyscus maniculatus*: deer mouse ♠

17.✓ 3. *Reithrodontomys megalotis*: western harvest mouse ♠

## E. FAMILY MURIDAE, SUBFAMILY ARVICOLINTINAE: VOLES, MUSKRATS, LEMMINGS. Recognized as a separate family (Arvicolidae) by some authors, included in Cricetidae by others.

18/110 Holarctic distribution

- tails short, mostly covered with short hair
- ears and eyes small
- continuously erupting cheek teeth.

18.✓ 1. *Microtus ochrogaster*: prairie vole (formerly in the genus *Pedomys*) ♠

19.✓ 2. *Microtus pennsylvanicus*: meadow vole ♠

20.✓ 3. *Ondatra zibethicus*: muskrat ♠

21.✓ 4. *Synaptomys cooperi*: southern bog lemming ♠

**F. FAMILY MURIDAE, SUBFAMILY MURINAE: OLD WORLD RATS AND MICE**

89/408 Worldwide except Antarctica (introduced in some areas). Recognized as a separate family (Muridae) by some authors.

· tail long, naked, fairly uniform in color

1. *Mus musculus*: House Mouse
2. *Rattus norvegicus*: Norway rat

**G. FAMILY DIPODIDAE, SUBFAMILY ZAPODIINAE: BIRCH MICE AND JUMPING MICE**

4/11 North temperate areas of N. America and Eurasia a tail very long, hairy

· hindlimbs are elongate except in *Sicista*  
 · top incisors with groove

1. *Zapus hudsonicus*: meadow jumping mouse ♠

**LAGOMORPHS****A. FAMILY LEPORIDAE (RABBITS AND HARES)**

8/50 Worldwide (introduced in some areas including Australia and New Zealand).

· pinna long, pointed  
 · tail short but distinct

22. ✓ 1. *Lepus townsendii*: white-tailed jack rabbit\* ♠
23. ✓ 2. *Sylvilagus floridanus*: eastern cottontail ♦

**ARTIODACTYLS (CLOVEN-HOOVED UNGULATES)****A. FAMILY CERVIDAE: DEER AND ALLIES**

11/37 Worldwide except Antarctica and most of Africa (introduced in the Australian region).

· antlers found in males, usually complexly branched  
 · lacrimal depression present

24. ✓ 1. *Odocoileus virginianus*: white-tailed deer ♦
2. *Cervus elaphus*: elk, wapiti @

**B. BOVIDS (BUFFALO, CATTLE)**

25. ✓ 1. *Bison bison*: bison

## GRASSLAND MAMMAL SPECIES OUTSIDE OF ILLINOIS

### ORDER CARNIVORA

#### FAMILY URSIDAE

1. *Ursus americana*: black bear @
2. *Ursus acrtos*: plains grizzly bear [Extinct]

### ORDER PERISSODACTYLA

#### FAMILY EQUIDAE

1. *Equus equus*: horse (reintroduced to N. America)

#### FAMILY TAYASSUIDAE

- 26.✓ 1. *Pecari tajacu*: collared pecari

### ORDER ARTIODACTYLA

#### FAMILY CERVIDAE

27. ✓ 1. *Odocoilus hemionus*: mule deer ♦

#### FAMILY BOVIDAE: (BUFFALO, CATTLE)

- 28.✓ 1. *Antilocapra americana*: pronghorn

### ORDER LAGOMORPHA

#### FAMILY LEPORIDAE

- 29.✓ 1. *Lepus californicus*: black-tailed jackrabbit

### ORDER RODENTIA

#### FAMILY HETEROMYIDAE

- 30.✓ 1. *Perognathus flavescens*: Plains pocket mouse

#### FAMILY SCIURIDAE

- 31.✓ 1. *Cynomys ludovicianus*: black-tailed prairie dog

### ORDER CARNIVORA

#### FAMILY MUSTELIDAE

- 32.✓ 1. *Mustela nigripes*: black-footed ferret

#### FAMILY CANIDAE

- 33.✓ 1. *Vulpes nigripes*: kit fox