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## Southern Bog Lemming, *Synaptomys cooperi*, New to Islands in Lake Michigan

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The first record of Southern Bog Lemmings on islands of Lake Michigan is reported. These mice, which have white feet, are found on Washington and Rock islands.

**Key Words:** Southern Bog Lemming, *Synaptomys cooperi*, Wisconsin, Lake Michigan.

Although numerous studies have been carried out on the islands in Lake Michigan, microtine voles have been seldom trapped on any of them (Long 1974; Hatt et al. 1948; Burt 1948; Baker 1983; Jackson 1961). The Red-backed Vole, *Clethrionomys gapperi*, occurs on Washington, Poverty (Long 1978) and Beaver islands (see Ozoga and Phillips 1964). The Meadow Vole, *Microtus pennsylvanicus*, is abundant surrounding Lake Michigan but is known only from one specimen taken near a bog on Chambers Island (Long 1978), another taken on Summer Island (Nellis 1970), another collected in a small local population on Marion Island (Scharf 1984), and another obtained on North Manitou Island (Scharf and Jurac 1980).

Southern Bog Lemmings, *Synaptomys cooperi*, have never been taken on any island, and in three studies (see Johnson 1978) remain unknown from the Door Peninsula, and, across the Door of Death, on Washington Island. Southern Bog Lemmings are rarer than Meadow Voles and are possibly restricted to local populations by them (Getz 1961). The failure to obtain Southern Bog

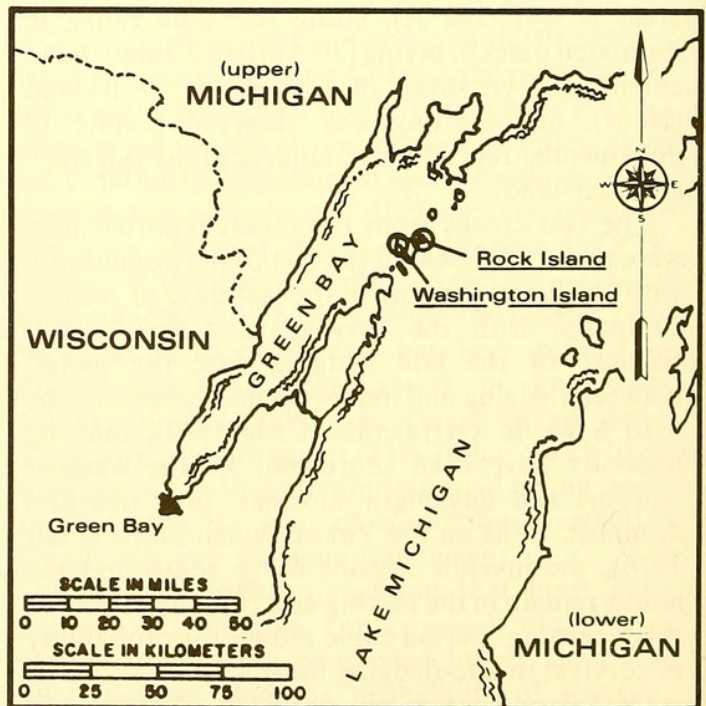


FIGURE 1. Map showing islands where Southern Bog Lemmings were collected within the Lake Michigan drainage basin.

Lemmings on the sands, cobbles, limestone ledges, and limy soils of Chambers Island and all the isles across Green Bay was not surprising (Long 1978). However, Tom Jessen, a park ranger who is in charge of Rock Island State Park, found one dead on the grassy lawn there. Previous and subsequent trapping has revealed no other Southern Bog Lemmings from Rock Island.

Rock Island is separate by only  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  mile (0.4-0.8 km) of water from the north shore of Washington Island, which is ecologically similar (beech, maple, cedars, sedge meadows). Subsequent field work focused on sedge meadows reveals several local populations on the north side of Washington Island. Nine additional bog lemmings were collected. All specimens are deposited in the University of Wisconsin Museum of Natural History in Stevens Point (6250-6259).

Old fields, prairies, marshes, and bogs are common throughout Washington Island, seemingly suitable for Meadow Voles, which are strangely absent. Perhaps their absence is related to the Southern Bog Lemming's presence. The Southern Bog Lemmings collected are interesting in that they have conspicuous white feet.

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