

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

NATURAL HISTORY OF PLUMMERS ISLAND,
MARYLAND.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN AND H. H. T. JACKSON.

IX. MAMMALS.¹

No systematic survey of the mammalian fauna of Plummers Island, or its vicinity, has ever been undertaken. The following list embraces 30 species that have been collected or observed, or whose presence on the island has been definitely determined by tracks, during a period of about 37 years. Owing to lack of field work it is not feasible to list all the mammals of the "mainland," as the tract of about 40 acres belonging to the Washington Biologists' Field Club on the adjacent Maryland shore is commonly called by club members. It seems desirable, however, to direct attention to an additional list of eleven species that are known from the general region and may be expected to occur on the island or the "mainland" area. In the preparation of these lists the card records kept at the island for many years, mainly by Dr. A. K. Fisher, have afforded an indispensable basis. Special acknowledgment is also due to Vernon Bailey who has brought together so much information in his "Mammals of the District of Columbia" (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 36, pp. 103-138, May 1, 1923), which has been freely consulted by us. The lists directed attention to many gaps in our knowledge of the mammals of Plummers Island and vicinity, gaps which it is hoped may be filled through an intensified interest of club members in this branch of natural history.

¹ The following numbers of this series have been published previously: I (Introduction), Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 48 : 115-117. 1935; II (Flowering plants and ferns), *op cit.* 118-134; III (Mosses), *op cit.* 135-137; IV (Birds), *op cit.* 159-167; V (Fungi), *op cit.* 49 : 123-131. 1936; VI (Reptiles and amphibians), *op cit.* 50 : 137-139. 1937; VII (Hepaticae), *op cit.* 52 : 21-22. 1939; VIII (Lichens), *op cit.* 23-26.

Didelphis virginiana virginiana. Virginia Opossum.

Common. A nocturnal prowler around cabin.

Scalopus aquaticus aquaticus. Eastern Mole.

Common on the lower parts of the island.

Blarina brevicauda brevicauda. Short-tailed Shrew.

Several trapped by A. K. Fisher and F. M. Uhler in the cabin.

Myotis subulatus leibii. Least Brown Bat.

Smallest of the bats of the eastern United States. The synonym, *Myotis winnemana*, was based on a specimen taken on the island by A. K. Fisher.

Myotis keeni septentrionalis. Trouessart's Little Brown Bat.

Several flew into cabin and were captured by W. R. Maxon, W. H. Osgood, H. S. Barber, and A. K. Fisher at various times.

Myotis lucifugus lucifugus. Little Brown Bat.

One collected by A. K. Fisher, June, 1904.

Lasionycteris noctivagans. Silver-haired Bat.

One captured in cabin by A. K. Fisher, October, 1906.

Pipistrellus subflavus subflavus. Georgian Bat.

One caught in cabin by A. K. Fisher, March 23, 1907. Abundant in the region.

Eptesicus fuscus fuscus. Large Brown Bat.

One killed in cabin by A. K. Fisher, August 5, 1905. One caught, probably accidentally, in mouse trap set in cabin by H. S. Barber, January 21, 1907. One specimen taken from trap in cabin by F. M. Uhler and A. L. Nelson on January 15, 1939. Common in the region.

Lasiurus borealis borealis. Red Bat.

Six records of captures in cabin. Common in the region. One young apparently just able to fly collected July 15, 1914 (Bailey, l.c., p. 133).

Nycticeius humeralis. Evening Bat.

One captured in the cabin by H. S. Barber, September 7, 1910.

Procyon lotor lotor. Raccoon.

Common. Fresh tracks frequently seen.

Mustela frenata noveboracensis. Eastern Long-tailed Weasel.

Den containing young found by W. R. Maxon, June 9, 1907.

Mustela vison mink. Mink.

Tracks in mud identified by A. K. Fisher, March 22, 1908; January 11, 1914; and March 6, 1921. Fairly common in the region.

Mephitis mephitis nigra. Eastern Skunk.

Common. Fresh tracks frequently seen.

Lutra canadensis canadensis. Eastern Otter.

Tracks between air holes in ice identified by A. K. Fisher, January 13, 1910, and December 10, 1911.

Vulpes fulva fulva. Eastern Red Fox.

Tracks noted in snow almost every winter. Bailey (l.c., p. 122) records the observation of one by A. K. Fisher and Alexander Wetmore on the Virginia shore opposite the island in 1922.

Felis domestica. Domestic Cat.

Feral individuals occur.

Marmota monax monax. Groundhog; Southern Woodchuck.

Resident. Holes at base of cliff near cabin.

Tamias striatus striatus. Chipmunk.

Former resident, but not observed in recent years.

Sciurus hudsonicus loquax. Red Squirrel.

Former resident, and may still occur, but not common. One swimming from island to Virginia shore was captured by H. S. Barber, September 6, 1908.

Sciurus carolinensis carolinensis. Carolina Gray Squirrel.

Resident.

Sciurus niger neglectus. Fox Squirrel.

Former resident, but now of rare and erratic occurrence.

Glaucomys volans volans. Small Eastern Flying Squirrel.

Former resident, and probably still occurs. Several nested in gourds placed in trees by A. K. Fisher. One collected by F. M. Uhler, February 15, 1937.

Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis. White-footed Mouse.

Common. Specimens taken at various times.

Neotoma pennsylvanica. Eastern Wood Rat.

Resident.

Sylvilagus floridanus mallurus. Eastern Cottontail.

Common.

Pitymys pinetorum scalopsoides. Pine Mouse.

Specimens were obtained by A. K. Fisher, December 31, 1906. Others were collected by E. A. and L. C. Goldman, November 6, 1938, in runways found on the low ground at the base of the hill near the ferry landing.

Ondatra zibethica macrodon. Virginia Muskrat.

F. M. Uhler has recently noted definite signs of occurrence along the "mainland" side of the narrow channel crossed by the ferry. His observations in such close proximity seem to warrant the inclusion of this common and widely dispersed species in the regular list for the island.

Mus musculus musculus. House Mouse.

Common pest, trapped from time to time in cabin.

The following list is of 11 species that have not yet been reported but may be expected to occur on the island or the "mainland":

Condylura cristata. Star-nosed Mole.

Known from Cabin John and, therefore, probably occurs on the "mainland."

Sorex fontinalis. Maryland Shrew.

Known from Cabin John and may be found both on the island and the "mainland."

Sorex longirostris longirostris. Bachman's Shrew.

Recorded from Falls Church, Va., and Chesapeake Beach, Md.

Microsorex hoyi winnemana. Winnemana Pigmy Shrew.

Rare. Smallest American mammal known, and one of the smallest known mammals in the world. Taken at Stubblefield Falls, in nearby Virginia, and at Berwyn, Md.

Cryptotis parva. Least Short-tailed Shrew.

Known from Laurel, Md., and Falls Church, Va.

Pipistrellus subflavus obscurus. Dusky Georgian Bat.

Two specimens, recorded by Bailey (l.c., p. 137) taken flying over river near the island September 9, 1905. Assumed to be migrants.

Lasiurus cinereus. Hoary Bat.

Recorded from Chain Bridge (Bailey, l. c., p. 132). Probably visits the island during migration.

Urocyon cinereoargenteus cinereoargenteus. Eastern Gray Fox.

Reports indicate the presence of this species along the cliffs flanking the Potomac River and it is probably an occasional visitor. The remains of rabbits killed on the island by a fox, perhaps of this species, were noted by Alexander Wetmore, February 1, 1918.

Microtus pennsylvanicus pennsylvanicus. Meadow Mouse.

Abundant in the region. Not reported, but doubtless inhabits the "mainland" and may occur on the island.

Zapus hudsonicus americanus. Carolina Jumping Mouse.

Bailey (l.c.) records one collected near Cabin John by E. W. Nelson, in 1913. Probably inhabits the "mainland," but occurrence on island more doubtful.

Rattus norvegicus. Brown Rat.

Common on the "mainland" near the old house close to the lock in the canal.



Goldman, Edward Alphonso and Jackson, Hartley H. T. 1939. "Natural history of Plummers Island, Maryland. IX. Mammals." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 52, 131–134.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/107601>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/45873>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Biological Society of Washington

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.