A PROVISIONAL
CHECK-LIST OF THE MAMMALS OF ONTARIO

By S.C. DOWNING

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS NO. 2

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This check-list has been prepared to meet the need for a convenient reference list of the mammals of Ontario since the most recent list, Cross and Dymond's *The Mammals of Ontario* (1929), is now out of print. As indicated by the title the list is provisional and it is requested that errors and omissions be reported to the Museum so that they may be corrected in a proposed manual for the Mammals of Ontario. Because of its temporary nature and for the sake of brevity references have been omitted.

The following list of eighty-two species of recent mammals contains, as far as the author can ascertain, all the species except the Primates which occur or have occurred in Ontario. The list is based on actual specimens although some hypothetical records (indicated in the text by an asterisk (*)) are included.

Of the eighty-two species of mammals listed, seventy-four are represented by Ontario specimens in the Museum collection, one (Parry's ground squirrel) is represented by a specimen of doubtful Ontario origin in the National Museum collection at Ottawa and the remaining seven species (white-tailed jack rabbit, white whale, Arctic fox, cougar, walrus, harbour seal, harp seal) are included on the basis of published records of their occurrence within the Province.

Under each species a brief statement of the status and known range in Ontario is given and the subspecies ascribed to Ontario are listed. The systematic arrangement follows Simpson (*The Principles of Classification and a Classification of Mammals*, 1945) to genus. The species arrangement is that of Anderson (*Catalogue of Canadian Recent Mammals*, 1947). The Ontario Mammals as here listed contain representatives of 8 orders, 20 families, 59 genera, 82 species and 102 subspecies.

I. ORDER MARSUPIALIA

1. Family Didelphidae

1. Didelphis virginiana Kerr. Opossum.

Is found rarely along the north shore of Lake Erie and is recorded as having occurred once in York Co. Probably a rare wanderer from the south. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is D. v. virginiana Kerr.

II. ORDER INSECTIVORA

2. Family Soricidae

2. Sorex cinereus Kerr. Cinereous Shrew.

Common and generally distributed throughout the Province. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is S. c. cinereus Kerr.

3. Sorex fumeus Miller. Smoky Shrew.

Occurs fairly regularly from southern Ontario north to Fraserdale, Cochrane Dist. and west to Thunder Bay on Lake Superior. Subspecies ascribed to Ontario is S. f. fumeus Miller.

4. Sorex arcticus Kerr. Saddle-backed Shrew.

Found in the northern half of Ontario south to Ridout, Sudbury Dist.; most abundant on the northern coastal plain. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is S. a. arcticus Kerr.

5. Sorex palustris Richardson. Water Shrew.

Occurs regularly from northern Huron and central Ontario counties, north to Moosonee on the east and to Favourable Lake, Patricia Portion of Kenora Dist. on the west. Three subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, S. p. palustris Richardson in western Ontario, S. p. albibarbis (Cope) in central and southern Ontario, and S. p. hydrobadistes Jackson in western Algoma Dist.

6. Microsorex hoyi (Baird). Pigmy Shrew.

Occurs throughout Ontario, usually rare but sometimes common in the far north. Three subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, M. h. intervectus Jackson over most of the Province, M. h. alnorum (Preble) in the northwest and M. h. hoyi Baird in the south.

7. Blarina brevicauda (Say). Mole Shrew.

Common and generally distributed in Ontario north to a line running from southern James Bay to southern Kenora Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is B. b. talpoides (Gapper).

8. Cryptotis parva (Say). Little Short-tailed Shrew.

Known only from a few specimens from southern Ontario. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is C. p. parva (Say).

3. Family Talpidae

9. Parascalops breweri (Bachman). Hairy-tailed Mole.
Occurs sporadically in restricted areas north to Algonquin Park and southern Algoma Dist.
10. Scalopus aquaticus (Linnaeus). Common Mole.
Found only in Essex Co. where it is locally abundant. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is S. a. machrinus (Rafinesque).
11. Condylura cristata (Linnaeus). Star-nosed Mole.
Common north to the Albany River in the east and southern Kenora Dist. in the west. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is C. c. cristata (Linnaeus).

III. ORDER CHIROPTERA

4. Family Vespertilionidae

12. Myotis lucifugus (LeConte). Little Brown Bat.
Common throughout Ontario north at least to Favourable Lake, Patricia Portion of Kenora Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. l. lucifugus (LeConte).
13. Myotis keenii (Merriam). Long-eared Brown Bat.
Limits of range unknown; occurs sporadically north at least to southern Thunder Bay Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. k. septentrionalis (Trouessart).
14. Myotis subulatus (Say). Least Brown Bat.
Only one summer record, Middlesex Co.; winters regularly in caves in Renfrew and Hastings counties. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. s. leibii (Audubon and Bachman).
15. Lasionycteris noctivagans (LeConte). Silver-haired Bat.
Migratory; occurring widely but irregularly over most of the Province. Limits of range unknown but north at least to Moose River Crossing, Cochrane Dist.
16. Pipistrellus subflavus (F. Cuvier). Pipistrelle.
Only two summer records, Carleton and Lincoln counties; winters regularly in caves in south and southeastern Ontario north to central Renfrew Co. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is P. s. obscurus Miller.
17. Eptesicus fuscus (Beauvois). Big Brown Bat.
Common in south and southeastern Ontario, north to the French River; northern limits unknown, but north at least to Sioux Lookout, Kenora Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is E. f. fuscus (Beauvois).
18. Nycticeius humeralis (Rafinesque). Evening Bat.
Only one Ontario record, Point Pelee, May 1911.
19. Lasiurus borealis (Müller). Red Bat.
Migratory; limits of range unknown, occurs sparingly over the Province north at least to Favourable Lake, Patricia Portion of Kenora Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is L. b. borealis (Müller).

20. Lasiurus cinereus (Beauvois). Hoary Bat.
Migratory; records from surrounding areas indicate that most of Ontario is probably included in the general range of this rare species but our most northerly record is Malachi, Kenora Dist.

IV. ORDER LAGOMORPHA

5. Family Leporidae

- 21.* Lepus townsendii Bachman. White-tailed Jackrabbit.
Included as a hypothetical Ontario species on the basis of reports from residents of the town of Rainy River that "enormous Jack Rabbits" occur in large numbers on Sable Island ten miles north of the town. Substantiating specimens are still lacking. L. t. campanius Hollister is the subspecies ascribed to the hypothetical Ontario occurrence.
22. Lepus europaeus Pallas. European Hare.
Introduced; has spread over the greater part of south and southeastern Ontario north at least to Burk's Falls, Parry Sound Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is L. e. europaeus Pallas.
23. Lepus americanus Erxleben. Varying Hare or Snowshoe Rabbit.
Formerly occurred throughout the Province. Today rare in the south and found there only in large isolated cedar swamps and similar cool areas. Three subspecies are ascribed to Ontario L. a. americanus Erxleben in the north, L. a. virginianus (Harlan) in the south, and L. a. phaeonotus Allen, in extreme western Rainy River Dist.
24. Sylvilagus floridanus (Allen). Cottontail.
Found commonly in the farm lands of south and southeastern Ontario. Its northern limits are marked roughly by a line running from Port Sydney, Muskoka Dist. to a point just north of the city of Ottawa. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is S. f. mearnsii (Allen).

V. ORDER RODENTIA

6. Family Sciuridae

25. Sciurus carolinensis Gmelin. Black or Grey Squirrel.
Common in southeastern Ontario, sparingly north to Lake Nipissing; also occurs in the southern part of the Rainy River Dist. S. c. leucotis (Gapper) is the subspecies ascribed to eastern Ontario, the Rainy River animals may belong to the Minnesota subspecies S. c. hypophaeus Merriam.
26. Sciurus niger Linnaeus. Fox Squirrel.
Confined to Pelee Island, Lake Erie, where it was introduced from southern Ohio about 1895. S. n. rufiventer (Geoffroy) was the subspecies introduced to Ontario.

27. Tamiasciurus hudsonicus (Erxleben). Red Squirrel.
Common and generally distributed throughout the Province.
Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, T. h. hudsonicus (Erxleben) north and west and T. h. loquax (Bangs) in the southeast.
28. Marmota monax (Linnaeus). Woodchuck.
Generally distributed throughout the Province; common except in the far north where it occurs sporadically along the larger river banks. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, M. m. rufescens Howell in the south and M. m. canadensis (Erxleben) north and west.
- 29.* Citellus parryii (Richardson). Parry's Ground Squirrel.
The specimen recorded from Cape Henrietta Maria was secured from natives; now believed this animal was actually captured to the north of the Province. C. p. parryii (Richardson) is the subspecies involved in the doubtful Ontario record.
30. Citellus franklinii (Sabine). Franklin's Ground Squirrel.
Occurs in southwestern Rainy River Dist., east at least to Carpenter Twp.; apparently extending its range eastward.
31. Tamias striatus (Linnaeus). Eastern Chipmunk.
Common and generally distributed in the Province south of a line running from just south of James Bay to the southern part of Kenora Dist. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, T. s. griseus Mearns north and west and T. s. lysteri (Richardson) in the southeast.
32. Eutamias minimus (Bachman). Western Chipmunk.
Occurs from the Manitoba boundary east to southern Algonquin Park. Its northern limits are marked roughly by Favourable and Attawaspiskat lakes in the Patricia Portion of Kenora Dist. and Smoky Falls and Fraserdale in Cochrane Dist.; common over most of its range. E. m. neglectus (Allen) is the subspecies ascribed to Ontario with E. m. hudsonius Anderson and Rand probably occurring in the extreme north-western corner of its range in the Province.
33. Glaucomys volans (Linnaeus). Eastern Flying Squirrel.
Occurs in south and southeastern Ontario, sparingly north to Muskoka Dist.; most common in the southern part of the Province but its numbers have declined with the disappearance of the forests. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is G. v. volans (Linnaeus).
34. Glaucomys sabrinus (Shaw). Northern Flying Squirrel.
Occurs throughout the Province south at least to Woodstock, Oxford Co.; fairly common and generally distributed north of Lake Simcoe, south of this area it occurs sporadically in restricted areas. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, G. s. macrotis (Mearns) in the southeast and G. s. sabrinus (Shaw) in the rest of the Province.

7. Family Castoridae

35. Castor canadensis Kuhl. Beaver.
Formerly occurred in abundance throughout the Province. Under protection the beaver is increasing in numbers and a few are to be found again even in the southern part of Ontario. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, C. c. michiganensis Bailey in southern Algoma Dist. and C. c. canadensis Kuhl over the rest of the Province.

8. Family Cricetidae

36. Peromyscus maniculatus (Wagner). Deer Mouse.
Common and generally distributed throughout the greater part of Ontario; absent from the southeastern corner of the Province in the region of the St. Lawrence River and the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Three subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, P. m. maniculatus (Wagner) in the north, P. m. gracilis (LeConte) in the central portion and P. m. bairdii (Hoy and Kennicott) in the southwestern part of southern Ontario.
37. Peromyscus leucopus (Rafinesque). White-footed Mouse.
Common and generally distributed in south and southeastern Ontario, north to southern Parry Sound and Renfrew counties. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is P. l. noveboracensis (Fischer).
38. Synaptomys cooperi Baird. Cooper's Lemming Mouse.
Occurs locally over most of the Province north to Favourable Lake and Lake Attawapiskat in the Patricia Portion of Kenora Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is S. c. cooperi Baird.
39. Synaptomys borealis (Richardson). Northern Lemming Mouse.
Only two specimens have been taken in Ontario, one at Fort Severn and one at Moosonee. Lack of specimens has prevented any attempt to determine the subspecies occurring in Ontario.
40. Clethrionomys gapperi (Vigors). Red-backed Mouse.
Occurs throughout the greater part of Ontario south to about latitude 44 degrees. In the north it is common and generally distributed, while in the south it is found mainly in cool evergreen areas. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, C. g. gapperi (Vigors) in the south and C. g. hudsonius Anderson in the north.
41. Ondatra zibethica (Linnaeus). Muskrat.
Found commonly throughout the Province. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, O. z. alba (Sabine) along Hudson Bay and O. z. zibethica (Linnaeus) elsewhere.
42. Phenacomys ungava Merriam. Phenacomys.
A rare species which occurs sporadically in a broad belt across Ontario between Lake Nipissing in the south and Favourable Lake, Patricia Portion of Kenora Dist. in the north. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is P. u. ungava Merriam.

43. Pitymys pinetorum (LeConte). Pine Mouse.
Found only in southern Ontario where it has been taken in Middlesex, Elgin and Haldiman counties. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is P. p. scalopsoides (Auduon and Bachman).
44. Microtus pennsylvanicus (Ord). Meadow Mouse.
Found commonly throughout Ontario wherever suitable grassy areas occur. Three subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, M. p. fontigenus Bangs in the northeast, M. p. drummondii (Audubon and Bachman) in the west and northwest and M. p. pennsylvanicus (Ord) over the rest of the Province.
45. Microtus chrotorrhinus (Miller). Yellow-checked Vole.
Found locally in the eastern half of northern Ontario from the Quebec boundary west to Lake Nipigon, north to Fraserdale, Cochrane Dist. and south to Temagami and southern Algoma Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. c. chrotorrhinus (Miller).

9. Family Muridae

46. Rattus norvegicus (Erxleben). House-Rat.
Introduced; common and long established in south and southeastern Ontario and the southern fringe of Algoma Dist. Occurs sporadically along the railway lines in northern Ontario but is common only in the larger centres such as Port Arthur and Kenora.
47. Rattus rattus (Linnaeus). Black Rat.
Recorded for Ontario on only one occasion when about twenty animals were found in a case of plants from France when the box was opened at Strathroy, Middlesex Co. Among the animals captured were representatives of both the black rat R. r. rattus (Linnaeus) and the roof rat R. r. alexandrius (Geoffroy).
48. Mus musculus Linnaeus. House Mouse.
Introduced; common and long established in the southern half of the Province. The house mouse has penetrated northern Ontario much further than the house rat and is well established along the railway lines north at least to Fraserdale, Cochrane Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. m. domesticus Ratty.

10. Family Zapodidae

49. Zapus hudsonius (Zimmermann). Meadow Jumping Mouse.
Found regularly in grassy areas throughout Ontario. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario Z. h. hudsonius (Zimmermann) in the north and west and Z. h. ontarionensis Anderson in the south and east.
50. Napaeozapus insignis (Miller). Woodland Jumping Mouse.
Found regularly from southern James Bay, south to the northern parts of Peel, York and Ontario counties and southwest to Rainy River Dist. Three subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, N. i. abietorum (Preble) in the north and west, N. i. algonquinensis Prince south of L. Nipissing and N. i. frutectanus Jackson in Rainy River Dist. and the southeast corner of L. Superior.

11. Family Erethizontidae

51. Erethizon dorsatum (Linnaeus). Porcupine.

Formerly common throughout the Province but has been exterminated in most of southern Ontario, where today it is found occasionally only in large isolated woodlots or tracts or waste-land. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is E. d. dorsatum (Linnaeus).

VI. ORDER CETACEA

12. Family Monodontidae

52.* Delphinapterus leucas (Pallas). White Whale.

Enters the estuaries of the larger rivers along the Hudson and James Bay coasts of Ontario, south at least to the Moose River.

VII. ORDER CARNIVORA

13. Family Canidae

53. Canis latrans Say. Brush Wolf.

Has been abundant in western Ontario for many years, reached southern Ontario about 1920 and has spread eastward almost to Ottawa, northeastern limits unknown. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is C. l. latrans Say.

54. Canis lupus Linnaeus. Timber Wolf.

Formerly, generally distributed throughout the Province, now the thinly settled parts of southeastern Ontario mark its southern limits. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is C. l. lycaeon Schreber.

55.* Alopex lagopus (Linnaeus). Arctic Fox.

Occurs in winter along the Hudson and James Bay coasts of Ontario. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is A. l. innuitus (Merriam).

56. Vulpes fulva (Desmarest). Red Fox.

Generally distributed throughout the Province. Numbers have increased greatly in recent years south of Lake Nipissing. Three subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, V. f. fulva (Desmarest) in the south, V. f. rubricosa Bangs in the northeast and V. f. regalis Merriam in the northwest.

57. Urocyon cinereoargenteus (Schreber). Gray Fox.

Previous to European occupation it was common in southern Ontario. After an absence of 300 years it is now reinvading the Province. Since 1942, two specimens have been secured from the eastern end of Lake Ontario and one from Rainy River Dist. Three subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, U. c. cinereoargenteus (Schreber) in the Lake Erie region, U. c. borealis Merriam in the east and U. c. ocythous Bangs in the west.

14. Family Ursidae

58. Ursus americanus Pallas. Black Bear.
Formerly common throughout the Province and still common in the north; occasionally reported south of Algonquin Park. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is U. a. americanus Pallas.
59. Thalarctos maritimus (Phipps). Polar Bear.
Found along the coast of Ontario bordering on Hudson and James Bays. The Hudson Bay coast of Ontario is within the area where the female polar bear hibernates and bears her cubs. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is T. m. maritimus (Phipps).

15. Family Procyonidae

60. Procyon lotor (Linnaeus). Raccoon.
Common in southeastern Ontario south of Ottawa and Parry Sound, rare in Rainy River Dist. Occasional individuals wander far north of these areas and the species has been reported from Lake Nipigon. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is P. l. lotor (Linnaeus).

16. Family Mustelidae

61. Mustela erminea Linnaeus. Ermine.
Found throughout the Province; common in the north, less abundant in the Lake Erie region. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, M. e. richardsonii Bonaparte in the northern half and M. e. cicognanii Bonaparte in the southern half of the Province.
62. Mustela rixosa (Bangs). Least Weasel.
All of Ontario is included in the general range of this rare species but it has actually been recorded from only four localities in the Province, - Ft. Albany and Moose Factory in the James Bay area and inland at Heaslip, Temiskaming Dist. and Tatnal, Algoma Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. r. rixosa (Bangs).
63. Mustela frenata Lichtenstein. Long-tailed Weasel.
Southern part of the Province north at least to Algonquin Park; more common in the south. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. f. noveboracensis (Emmons).
64. Mustela vison Schreber. Mink.
Generally distributed throughout the Province. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. v. vison Schreber.
65. Martes americana (Turton). Marten.
Formerly found throughout the Province; Algonquin Park now marks the southern limits of its range; still not uncommon in remote areas. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. a. americana (Turton).

66. Martes pennanti (Erxleben). Fisher.
Once ranged over all of Ontario but not now found south of Algonquin Park; still found fairly regularly in remote areas. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is M. p. pennanti (Erxleben).
67. Gulo luscus (Linnaeus). Wolverine.
Formerly, probably inhabited most of Ontario; now confined to the far north where a few pelts are turned in each year at the trading posts. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is G. l. luscus (Linnaeus).
68. Taxidea taxus (Schreber). Badger.
Occurs occasionally in the western part of Rainy River Dist.; a few early reports of this species for the Lake Erie region of southern Ontario and one recent record of a specimen secured near Port Dover in 1934. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is T. t. taxus (Schreber).
69. Mephitis mephitis (Schreber). Skunk.
Commonly distributed throughout the Province. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, M. m. mephitis (Schreber) over most of the Province and M. m. nigra (Peale and Beauvois) in the southern section of eastern Ontario.
70. Lutra canadensis (Schreber). Otter.
Formerly, regularly distributed throughout Ontario; now seldom recorded south of Algonquin Park. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is L. c. canadensis (Schreber).

17. Family Felidae

- 71.* Felis concolor Linnaeus. Cougar.
Occurred occasionally in southern Ontario up to the middle of the last century. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is F. c. cougar Kerr.
72. Lynx canadensis Kerr. Canada Lynx.
Formerly found throughout the Province. Although occasional animals turn up in settled areas, it is now found regularly only in the wilder sections of the north. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is L. c. canadensis Kerr.
73. Lynx rufus (Schreber). Bobcat or Bay Lynx.
Once ranged over southern Ontario north to Georgian Bay; now rare in this area. In recent years it has extended its range into Rainy River and Thunder Bay Dists. and a specimen was taken in 1946 in southwestern Cochrane Dist. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is L. r. rufus (Schreber).

18. Family Odobenidae

- 74.* Odobenus rosmarus (Linnaeus). Atlantic Walrus.
Is said to have occurred formerly as far south as Cape Henrietta Maria; now seldom if ever found south of Hudson Bay.

19. Family Phocidae

- 75.* Phoca vitulina Linnaeus. Harbour Seal.
Seals, presumably of this species, occasionally ascend the St. Lawrence River to Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River as far as Ottawa. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is P. v. concolor (DeKay).
76. Phoca hispida Schreber. Ringed Seal.
Occurs along the Hudson and James Bay coasts of Ontario south at least to the Moose River. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is P. h. hispida Schreber.
- 77.* Phoca groenlandica Erxleben. Harp Seal.
Dr. R. M. Anderson in his Catalogue of Canadian Recent Mammals includes Ontario in the range of this species.
78. Erignathus barbatus (Erxleben). Bearded Seal.
Occurs occasionally along the James Bay coast of Ontario to its southern extremity at the mouth of the Harricanaw River. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is E. b. barbatus (Erxleben).

VIII. ORDER ARTIODACTYLA

20. Family Cervidae

79. Cervus canadensis (Erxleben). Wapiti or American Elk.
Formerly occurred in south and southeastern Ontario. By 1750 it had been extirpated over most of the Province but apparently lingered on in the Ottawa region until about 1800. The Wapiti existing today in Ontario Parks and protected areas have all been introduced. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is C. c. canadensis (Erxleben).
80. Odocoileus virginianus (Boddaert). White-tailed or Virginia Deer.
Has been extending its range northward and now occurs throughout the Province north to a line on a level with southern James Bay. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is O. v. borealis (Miller).
81. Alces americana (Clinton). Moose.
Occurs from Algonquin Park north to the southern edge of the coastal plain region of James and Hudson bays. Its northern limits are imperfectly known. The subspecies ascribed to Ontario is A. a. americana (Clinton).
82. Rangifer caribou (Gmelin). Woodland Caribou.
Formerly ranged our north woods as far south as Lake Nipissing. Today but a small remnant of the once numerous herds remains; even as a straggler it is seldom found south or east of a line running from southern James Bay to the Chapleau Game Preserve. Two subspecies are ascribed to Ontario, R. c. sylvestris (Richardson) in the northwest and R. c. caribou (Gmelin) over the rest of its range in the Province.