

Book Reviews

ZOOLOGY

The Mammals of Minnesota

By Evan B. Hazard. 1982. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. xii + 280 pp., illus. Cloth U.S. \$39.50; paper U.S. \$15.95.

As the first complete work dealing with the mammals of Minnesota in 30 years, this work is a significant contribution. Seventy-eight (plus three extirpated) species are discussed. Except in the case of *Peromyscus maniculatus bairdii* and *P. m. gracilis*, subspecies are not treated in the text itself, but the subspecies found in the state are listed in an appendix. The large total number of species is a reflection of the variety of habitats in Minnesota; taiga, deciduous forest, pine forest, and prairie are the major types present.

Species accounts comprise the bulk of the book. These include standard metric measurements, descriptions of the whole animal and the skull, statements on range, habitat, natural history, and relationship to people, and a distribution map. A listing of pertinent references for each species, by author and year, is also included; the full citations are in the extensive 57 page bibliography which includes many general works as well as those specific to Minnesota. The bibliography includes citations through 1981. The distribution maps show county lines with the locality symbols centered on the appropriate townships from which specimens have been collected or recorded. This method of noting distribution is especially useful for

the larger counties and for rare species. Overall, many areas of the state are poorly known. Hazard's book clearly shows what is currently known and will likely stimulate further study. For many species, a black and white sketch of the animal and/or its skull are also included.

A well-written and informative introductory section of eight pages describes mammalian characteristics, Minnesota habitats, and the use of scientific collections of mammals. The text also includes a useful glossary of anatomical and ecological terms and bracket keys to skulls and whole specimens (or skins). Overall, the keys are workable, but those unfamiliar with skull anatomy would benefit from a general figure naming the various bones and foramina. Most of these terms are defined in the glossary or pictured within the key, but no comprehensive figure is included.

As with most state or regional books, this work is intended for students, professionals, and the general reader. It should be of value to all these individuals as it is well-written, up-to-date, and provides easy access to the literature. Lastly, it is a pleasure to note that the book contains very few typographical errors.

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Mammals of the National Parks

By Richard G. Van Gelder. 1982. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. xvi + 310 pp., illus. Cloth U.S. \$24.50; paper U.S. \$8.95.

This book introduces mammal-watchers to the commonly seen species of mammals in America's national parks and monuments. It also discusses the parks themselves including suggestions on where to see particular species.

Part One (162 pages) describes 48 parks and monuments, mostly in the western United States and Alaska. Maps are included for those parks providing good mammal-viewing. These maps are redrawn from National Park Service maps and show most main roads, visitor centers, and certain major features such as mountains or the various localities referred to in the

accounts. Comments on the likelihood of seeing each species (e.g. readily observed, seldom seen) are included. Park accounts include a mammal checklist with notations indicating extirpated, introduced (non-native), and re-introduced species.

Part Two is a 135 page treatment of the mammals themselves. Although all taxonomic groups are mentioned, those species and species-groups most likely to be seen are emphasized. Therefore, shrews, moles, bats, mice, rats and pocket gophers are discussed only briefly. Wood rats (*Neotoma*) and the Brazilian Free-tailed Bat (whose evening flight from their nursery colony in Carlsbad Caverns National Park is an impressive sight) are the only mammals in the above groups which are discussed in depth.



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