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# Mammals of Iowa

A Preliminary Annotated Catalogue  
of the Recent Mammals  
of Iowa

BY

T. VAN HYNING, Museum Director  
Historical Dept. of Iowa  
Des Moines

And

FRANK C. PELLETT, Lecturer and Writer  
On Natural History, Atlantic, Iowa

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Presented by Title to the  
**IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**  
at their Annual Meeting at  
the Iowa College, Grinnell,  
Iowa, April 29-30, 1911.

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ERRATA.

First line, first page, insert after the, (Proceedings of the).  
Number 4, first line, (white-tailed) for white-tailed.  
Page 215, sixth line, (The Shrews) for (The Schrews).  
Number 56, (Brown Bat) for Brown Rat.

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## AN ANNOTATED CATALOGUE OF THE RECENT MAMMALS OF IOWA.

BY T. VAN HYNING AND FRANK C. PELLETT.

In forming a collection of the fauna of Iowa for the museum of the Historical Department of Iowa, it was early seen that there was no published lists, and but very meager and scattered records of the mammals of the state. It is this condition of affairs which has prompted the compiling of such at this time.

In 1905, Professor Herbert Osborn published a few species of mammals and birds under the title of "The Recently Extinct and Vanishing Animals of Iowa," in the "Annals of Iowa, Volume 6, Number 8." If there be any other lists, the present writers, in the hurried preparation of the one here given, have been unable to locate them.\*

The arrangement here, or classification, is practically that as given in Jordan's manual of the vertebrates; eighth edition; and is not claimed to be in accordance with later authors. The list is a preliminary to a complete monograph of the subject which the writers are preparing for future publication, and is intended as a means of drawing information, notes of occurrences in the state, records, criticisms, etc. It is in this that lies the value of the publication at this time, therefore any communications of additional data will be appreciated and considered as sufficient evidence that it has filled its mission. Communications may be addressed to either T. Van Hyning, Polk Boulevard, Des Moines, Iowa, or to F. C. Pellett, Atlantic, Iowa.

Many species are here given that occur in our adjoining states of which we have at this time no records of as occurring in Iowa; but are given with the hopes of gaining sufficient evidence to either establish or permanently eliminate them.

"Extinct," as here used, refers to Iowa only.

\*Since writing this paper, nearly a year ago, the writers have discovered a paper, "Notes on the Mammals of Iowa," by J. A. Allen, Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, vol. XIII, 1869-1870. In this paper Mr. Allen lists forty-eight species as inhabiting Iowa at that time.



## Order MARSUPIALIA. (The Marsupials.)

## Family DIDELPHIDIDIE. (The Opossums.)

Genus DIDELPHIS Linnaeus.

1. *Didelphis virginiana* KERR. Common Opossum.  
Southern half of the state.

## Order GLIRES. (The Rodents or Gnawers.)

## Family LEPORIDAE. (The Hares.)

Genus LEPUS Linnaeus.

2. *Lepus aquaticus* BACHMAN. Water Hare; Swamp Rabbit.  
Missouri; Southern Illinois, possibly in Iowa.
3. *Lepus americanus phasonotus* ALLEN. White Rabbit; Varying Hare.  
Mr. Pellett has seen specimens taken in Iowa. Minnesota.
4. *Lepus campestris* BACHMAN. White-tailed Jack Rabbit; Prairie Hare.  
Sparingly over southern half, and common in northern half of Iowa.
5. *Lepus californicus melanotis* MEARNs. Great Plains Jack Rabbit.  
Occurs over Nebraska; records for Missouri and South Dakota; possibly  
In Western Iowa.
6. *Lepus floridanus mearnsi* ALLEN. Cotton-tail.  
Our most common rabbit.
7. *Lepus floridanus similis* NELSON. Nebraska Cotton-tail.  
Minnesota; South Dakota and Nebraska; very likely in north-west part  
of Iowa.
8. *Lepus floridanus alacer* BANGS. Oklahoma Cotton-tail.  
Missouri and Southern Illinois north to Columbia, Missouri; possibly  
in Iowa.

## Family ERETHIZONTIDAE. (The American Porcupines.)

Genus ERETHIZON Frederick Cuvier.

9. *Erethizon dorsatus* LINNAEUS. Canada Porcupine.  
Comon in Wisconsin; very probably occurred in Iowa earlier.

## Family DIPODIDAE. (The Jumping Mice.)

Genus ZAPUS

10. *Zapus hudsonius* ZIMMERMAN. Hudson Bay Jumping Mouse.  
"Occurs in Iowa" Preble.
11. *Zapus hudsonius campestris* PREBLE. Prairie Jumping Mouse.  
Has been recorded in Iowa.

## Family GEOMYIDAE. (The Pouched Gophers.)

Genus GEOMYS Rafinesque.

12. *Geomys bursarius* SHAW. Pocket Gopher; Red Gopher; Prairie Gopher.  
All over the state.
- Gunus THOMOMYS Maximilian.
13. *Thomomys talpoides* RICHARDSON. Northern Pocket Gopher; Gray Pocket.  
Gopher.

Occurs in Minnesota, and is common in eastern South Dakota; possibly Iowa.

Family HETEROMYIDAE. (The Pocket Mice.)

Genus PEROGNATHUS Maximilian.

14. *Perognathus hispidus paradoxus* MERRIAM. Kansas Pocket Mouse.  
Occurs in Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska; probably in north-western Iowa.

Genus NEOTOMA Say.

15. *Neotoma campestris baileyi* MERRIAM. Bailey's Wood Rat.  
Common in Eastern Kansas; possibly in Iowa.

Family MURIDAE. (The Mice.)

Genus FIBER Cuvier.

16. *Fiber zibethicus* LINNAEUS. Muskrat.  
Occurs all over the state.

Genus SYNAPTOMYS Baird.

17. *Synaptomys cooperi* BAIRD. Lemming Mouse.  
Occurs in Minnesota; probably in Iowa.

Genus MICROTUS Schrank.

18. *Microtus pinetorum scalopsoides* AUDUBON and BACHMAN. Mole-like Vole.  
Northern form.

Recorded for Illinois; very probably occurs in Iowa.

19. *Microtus minor* MERRIAM. Least Meadow Mouse; Least Upland Vole.  
Occurs in Minnesota; probably in Iowa.

20. *Microtus pennsylvanicus* ORD. Meadow Mouse.  
"Numerous specimens taken in Iowa" Pellett.

21. *Microtus nemoralis* BAILEY. Woodland Vole.  
Recorded for Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.

22. *Microtus austerus* LE CONTE. Prairie Vole.  
Common in Iowa.

Genus EVOTOMYS Coues.

23. *Evotomys gapperi loringi* BAILEY. Red-backed Vole.  
Occurs in Minnesota; probably in Iowa.

Genus REITHRODONTOMYS Giglioli.

24. *Reithrodontomys dychei* ALLEN. Western Harvest Mouse.  
Common in Kansas; possibly in Iowa.

Genus ORYZOMYS Baird.

25. *Oryzomys palustris* HARLAN. Rice-field Mouse; Prairie Jumping Mouse.

Genus PEROMYSCUS Glogler.

26. *Peromyscus maniculatus* BAIRD and KENNICOTT. Prairie Deer Mouse.  
Common over Iowa.

27. *Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis* FISCHER. Northern white-footed Mouse; Wood Mouse.

Genus ONYCHOMYS Baird.

28. *Onychomys leucogaster* MAXIMILIAN. Missouri Grasshopper Mouse.  
Occurs in Nebraska and Missouri; probably Iowa.



## Sub-family MURINAE.

## Genus MUS Linnaeus.

29. *Mus decumanus* PALLAS. Brown Rat; Wharf Rat; Norway Rat. "A cosmopolitan species; introduced into America about 1775" Jordan.  
Common all over the state.
30. *Mus musculus* LINNAEUS. Common House Mouse. Cosmopolitan; probably introduced about the same time as the preceding species.  
Common all over the state.

## Family CASTORIDAE. (The Beavers.)

## Genus CASTOR Linnaeus.

31. *Castor canadensis* KUHL. American Beaver.  
Formerly occurred all over the state; became extinct sometime in the nineties.

## Family SCIURIDAE. (The Squirrels.)

## Genus ARCTOMYS Schreber.

32. *Arctomys monax* LINNAEUS. Woodchuck; Ground Hog; Marmot.  
Sparingly over the state.

## Genus SPERMOPHILUS Cuvier.

33. *Spermophilus franklini* SABINE. Gray Gopher; Scrub Gopher; Prairie Squirrel.  
Common all over the state.

34. *Spermophilus tridecemlineatus* MITCHELL. Striped Gopher; Striped Ground Squirrel; Thirteen-lined Squirrel.  
Common all over the state.

## Genus CYNOMYS Rafinesque.

35. *Cynomys ludovicianus* ORD. Prairie Dog.  
"Knew of one specimen in Cass County several years ago." Pellett.

## Genus TAMIAS Illiger.

36. *Tamias striatus* LINNAEUS. Chipmunk; Ground Squirrel.  
Sparingly all over the state.

37. *Tamias striatus griseus* MEARNS.  
Occurs in Missouri; probably in Iowa.

## Genus SCIURUS Linnaeus.

38. *Sciurus hudsonicus loquax* BANGS. Southern Red Squirrel.  
"Have taken them in Iowa." Pellett.
39. *Sciurus carolinensis* GMELIN. Gray Squirrel; Black Squirrel; Cat Squirrel.  
Common over eastern and southeastern Iowa.
40. *Sciurus carolinensis hypophaeus* MERRIAM. Large Gray Squirrel.  
Occurs in southern Minnesota; very probably in Iowa.
41. *Sciurus ludovicianus* CUSTUS. Western Fox Squirrel.  
Common in Iowa.



Genus *SCIUROPTERUS* Frederick Cuvier.

42. *Sciuropterus volans* LINNAEUS. Common Flying Squirrel.  
Occurs all over the state, except western and northwestern parts.

### Order INSECTIVORA. (The Insect-eaters.)

Family SCORICIDAE. (The Schrews.)

Genus *SOREX* Linnaeus.

43. *Sorex palustris* RICHARDSON. Water Shrew.  
Occurs in Minnesota; Possibly in Iowa.
44. *Sorex richardsoni* BACHMAN.  
Occurs in Minnesota; possibly in Iowa.
45. *Sorex personatus* GOEFFREY ST. HILAIRE. Common Shrew.
46. *Sorex hoyi* BAIRD.  
Occurs in Wisconsin; possibly in Iowa.

Genus *BLARINA* Gray.

47. *Blarina brevicauda* SAY. Mole Shrew; Short-tailed Shrew.  
Common over the state.
48. *Blarina parva* SAY. Least Shrew.  
Common over the state.

Family TALPIDAE. (The Moles.)

Genus *SCALOPS* Cuvier.

49. *Scalops aquaticus machrinus* RAFINESQUE. Prairie Mole.  
Common all over the state.

### Order CHIROPTERA. (The Bats.)

Family VESPERTILIONIDAE. (The Common Bats.)

Genus *MYOTIS* Kaup.

50. *Myotis subulatus* SAY. Say's Bat.  
Common all over the state.
51. *Myotis lucifugus* LE CONTE. Little Brown Bat.
52. *Myotis velifer* ALLEN.  
Occurs in Missouri; probably Iowa.
53. *Myotis californicus ciliolabrim* MERRIAM.  
Occurs in South Dakota; probably in Iowa.

Genus *LASIONYCTERIS* Peters.

54. *Lasionycteris noctivagans* LE CONTE. Silver-haired Bat.  
Occurs all over Iowa.

Genus *PIPISTRELLUS* Kaup.

55. *Pipistrellus subflavus* F. CUVIER. Georgian Bat.

Genus *VESPERTILIO* Linnaeus.

56. *Vespertilio fuscus* BEAUVOIS. Brown Rat.

Genus *LASIURUS* Gray.

57. *Lasiurus borealis* MULLER. Red Bat.



58. *Lasiurus cinereus* BEAUVOIS. Hoary Bat.

## Order UNGULATA. (The Hoofed Mammals.)

### Family CERVIDAE. (The Deer.)

#### Genus ODOCOILEUS Rafinesque.

59. *Odocoileus americanus* ERXLEBEN. Virginia Deer; Red Deer.  
Formerly common all over Iowa; now remains in semi-domesticated herds only; probably became extinct some time in the eighties.
60. *Odocoileus americanus macrouris* RAFINESQUE. White-tailed Deer.  
A specimen in the museum of the Historical Department of Iowa taken by Dr. Shaffer, Keokuk; now extinct.
61. *Odocoileus hemionus* RAFINESQUE. Mule Deer.  
Occurs in Nebraska; possibly in Iowa formerly.

#### Genus CERVUS Linnaeus.

62. *Cervus canadensis* ERXLEBEN. Wapiti; "American Elk."  
Formerly common all over Iowa; now remains in semi-domesticated herds only.

#### Genus ALCES Gray.

63. *Alces americanus* JARDINE. Moose; True Elk.  
The only record known of this species in Iowa is the finding of several teeth in the Boone Mound; supposing they were inhabitants of the territory and were used as food by the pre-historic natives.

#### Genus RANGIFER Hamilton Smith.

64. *Rangifer caribou* GMELIN. American Reindeer; Woodland Caribou.  
Occurs in Wisconsin; probably in Iowa earlier.

### Family ANTILOCAPRIDAE. (The Prong Bucks.)

#### Genus ANTILOCAPRA Ord.

65. *Antilocapra americana* ORD. Prong-horn; Cabree; Rocky Mountain Antelope: Antelope.  
Occurs in South Dakota and Nebraska; possibly in Iowa.

### Family BOVIDAE. (The Cattle.)

#### Genus BISON Hamilton Smith.

66. *Bison bison* LINNAEUS. Bison; Buffalo.  
Formerly common all over Iowa; now remains in semi-domesticated herds only. Skeletons have been found by the hundreds in old lake beds of the state.

## Order FERAEE. (The Flesh-eaters or Carnivora.)

### Family PROCYONIDAE. (The Raccoons.)

#### Genus PROCYON Storr.

67. *Procyon lotor* LINNAEUS. Common Raccoon.  
Common all over the state.



## Family URSIDAE. (The Bears.)

Genus URSUS Linnaeus.

- 68.
- Ursus americanus*
- PALLAS. Black Bear; Brown Bear; Cinnamon Bear.

Formerly all over the state, now in captivity only. Skulls are occasionally found.

## Family MUSTELIDAE. (The Weasels.)

Genus LUTRA Linnaeus.

- 69.
- Lutra canadensis*
- SCHREBER. American Otter.

Formerly common over the state. Became extinct probably in about 1890, as we have no later date.

Genus CHINCHA Lesson.

- 70.
- Chincha hudsonica*
- RICHARDSON. Great Northern Skunk; Northern Plains Skunk.

Rather rare in the state.

- 71.
- Chincha mesomeles avia*
- BANGS. Illinois Skunk.

Occurs in Eastern Iowa.

Genus SPILOGALE Gray.

- 72.
- Spilogale interrupta*
- RAFINESQUE. Little Spotted Skunk; "Civet Cat."

Common all over the state.

Genus TAXIDEA Waterhouse.

- 73.
- Taxidea americana*
- BODDAERT. American Badger.

Formerly over Iowa; now extinct.

Genus MUSTELLA Linnaeus.

- 74.
- Mustella americana*
- KERR. Sable; Pine Martin.

Occurs in Minnesota and Wisconsin; probably in Iowa earlier.

- 75.
- Mustella pennantii*
- ERXLEBEN. Pekan; Fisher.

Occurs in Minnesota and Wisconsin; probably in Iowa earlier.

Genus LUTREOLA Wagner.

- 76.
- Lutreola vison*
- SCHREBER. Mink.

Common all over the state.

Genus PUTORIUS Cuvier.

- 77.
- Putorius longicauda*
- BONAPARTE. Long-tailed Weasel.

Common all over the state.

- 78.
- Putorius longicauda spadix*
- BANGS. (A darker form.)

Occurs in Minnesota; possibly in northern Iowa.

## Family CANIDAE. (The Dogs.)

Genus VULPES Brisson.

- 79.
- Vulpes pennsylvanicus*
- BODDAERT. Red Fox.

Occurs all over the state; the two next varieties or sub-species intergrade with it.

- 80.
- Vulpes pennsylvanicus decussatus*
- DESMAREST. Cross Fox.

- 81.
- Vulpes pennsylvanicus argentatus*
- SHAW. Silver Fox; Black Fox.

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Genus *UROCYON* Baird.

82. *Urocyon cinereogenteus* MULLER. Gray Fox.

Genus *CANIS*. Linnaeus.

83. *Canis latrans* SAY. Coyote; Prairie Wolf.

Formerly common all over the state; plentiful yet in some districts.

84. *Canis nubilus* SAY. Timber Wolf; Gray Wolf.

Formerly common in the state; believed to be now extinct.

85. *Canis Nebrascensis* MERRIAM. Prairie Coyote.

Family *FELIDAE*. (The Cats.)

Genus *LYNX* Kerr.

86. *Lynx canadensis* DESMAREST. Canada Lynx.

Now extinct.

87. *Lynx rufus* GULDENSTADT. American Wild Cat; Bob Cat.

Formerly over the state; believed to be now extinct.

Genus *FELIS* Linnaeus.

88. *Felis concolor* LINNAEUS. American Panther; Cougar; Puma; Mountain Lion.

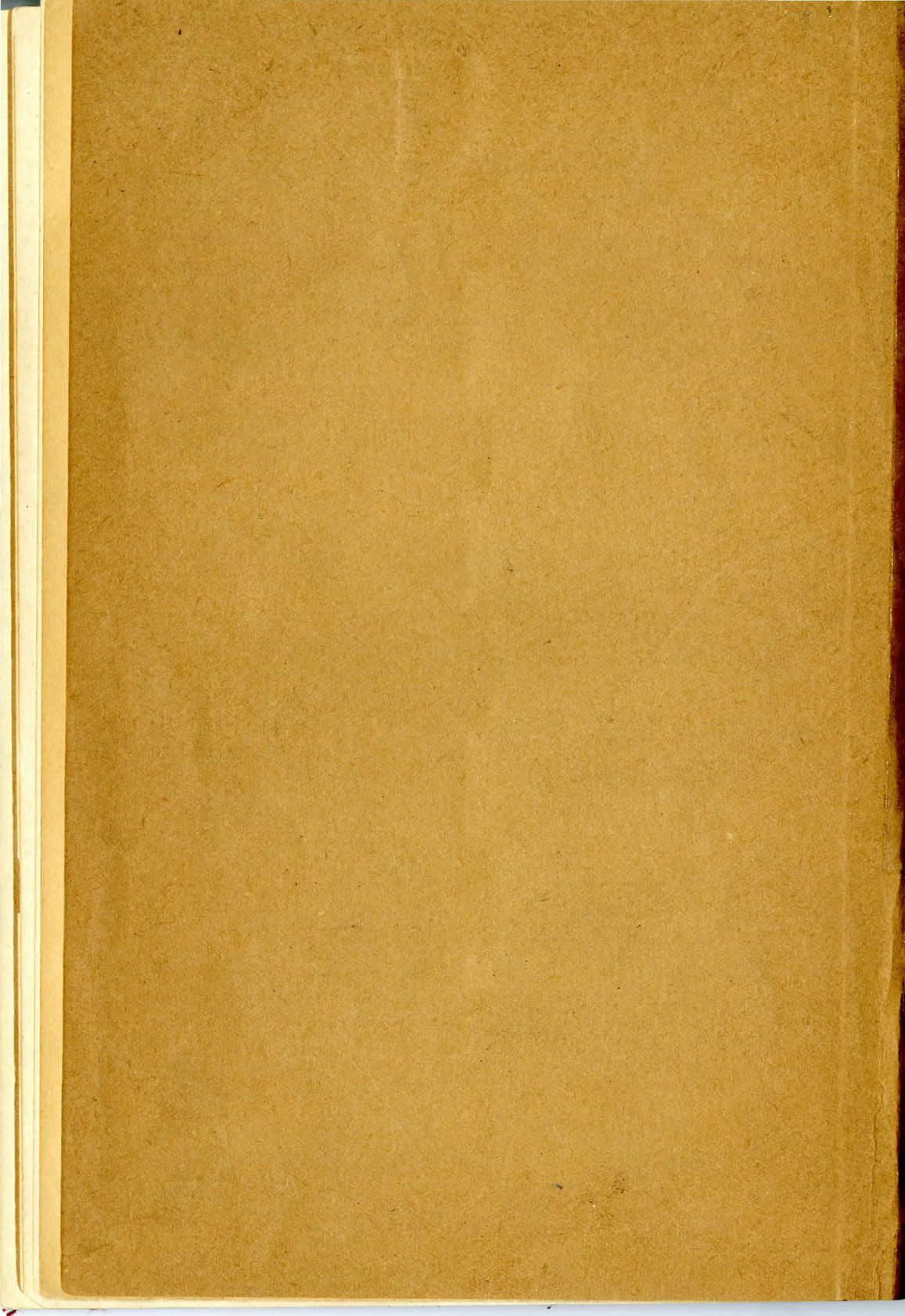
Formerly over the state; now extinct.

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