

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

THE MUSEUM

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

NUMBER 128

30 JUNE 1989

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE RECENT MAMMALS OF MISSISSIPPI

CLYDE JONES AND CATHERINE H. CARTER

A complete checklist of the Recent mammals of Mississippi is not available in the literature. Gandy (1966) included 54 species of land mammals in his preliminary checklist of the vertebrates of the state. Wolfe (1971) provided some information on 58 species of terrestrial mammals, and a total of 58 species was included in the review of the mammals of Mississippi by Kennedy *et al.* (1974). Some other lists of mammals from parts of the state are available (Ward *et al.*, 1961; Richmond, 1962; Crain and Cliburn, 1965; Ward, 1965). Some information on furbearers and game mammals was provided by Cook (1945) and McSwain (1967). Schmidly (1981) presented a summary of records of marine mammals of the region. All species occurring in the state were treated in the volumes by Hall (1981).

The aforementioned works were used as points of departure in the development of this list of Recent mammals of Mississippi. A number of nomenclatural changes and some information about known distributions of mammals that occur in the state have appeared in print since publication of these works. Some additional sources of information are cited in the text. Because compilations of the sort presented here facilitate the work of many biologists, especially students, we compiled the present updated list.

Taxa are presented in conventional phylogenetic sequence through genera. Names of species are arranged alphabetically under each genus. A total of 70 species is included in this

checklist. Taxa (seven) marked with an asterisk have been introduced from outside North America, and occur in sufficient numbers in the wild to be included here. We followed Jones *et al.* (1986) for the use of vernacular names of mammals.

ORDER MARSUPIALIA—Marsupials

Family Didelphidae (opossums)

Didelphis virginiana (Virginia opossum).—Occurs throughout Mississippi. The subspecies are *D. v. virginiana* Kerr, 1792, in the northern one-half of the state and *D. v. pigra* Bangs, 1898, in the south.

ORDER INSECTIVORA—Insectivores

Family Soricidae (shrews)

Sorex longirostris (southeastern shrew).—Ranges throughout state. The subspecies is *S. l. longirostris* Bachman, 1837.

Blarina carolinensis (southern short-tailed shrew).—Known from across Mississippi. The subspecies are *B. c. minima* Lowery, 1943, in the west and south and *B. c. carolinensis* (Bachman, 1837) in the eastern part.

Cryptotis parva (least shrew).—Recorded from throughout state. The subspecies is *C. p. parva* (Say, 1823).

Family Talpidae (moles)

Scalopus aquaticus (eastern mole).—Distributed statewide. The subspecies is *S. a. howelli* Jackson, 1914.

ORDER CHIROPTERA—Bats

Family Vespertilionidae (vespertilionid bats)

Myotis austroriparius (southeastern myotis).—Probably ranges throughout state. *Myotis austroriparius* (Rhoads, 1897) is a monotypic species.

Myotis grisescens (gray myotis).—Reported only from Tishomingo County in northeastern corner of Mississippi. *Myotis grisescens* A. H. Howell, 1909, is a monotypic species.

Myotis lucifugus (little brown myotis).—Occurs in eastern and northern parts of state. The subspecies is *M. l. lucifugus* (Le Conte, 1831).

Myotis septentrionalis (northern myotis).—Recorded only from Tishomingo County. *Myotis septentrionalis* (Trouessart, 1897) is a monotypic species (van Zyll de Jong, 1985).

Myotis sodalis (Indiana myotis).—Known only from Tishomingo County. *Myotis sodalis* Miller and G. M. Allen, 1928, is a monotypic species.

Lasionycteris noctivagans (silver-haired bat).—Although known only from a single specimen (Carter *et al.*, 1987), probably ranges throughout northern two-thirds of state as a migrant. *Lasionycteris noctivagans* Le Conte, 1831, is a monotypic form.

Pipistrellus subflavus (eastern pipistrelle).—Distributed throughout state. The subspecies is *P. s. subflavus* (F. Cuvier, 1832).

Eptesicus fuscus (big brown bat).—Known from throughout state. The subspecies is *E. f. fuscus* (Palisot de Beauvois, 1796).

Lasiurus borealis (eastern red bat).—Ranges statewide. *Lasiurus borealis* (Müller, 1776) is a monotypic species (Baker *et al.*, 1988).

Lasiurus cinereus (hoary bat).—Probably occurs throughout state as a migrant. The subspecies is *L. c. cinereus* (Palisot de Beauvois, 1796).

Lasiurus intermedius (northern yellow bat).—Known from the southern one-fourth of state. The subspecies is *L. i. floridanus* (Miller, 1902).

Lasiurus seminolus (Seminole bat).—Ranges throughout state. *Lasiurus seminolus* (Rhoads, 1895) is a monotypic species.

Nycticeius humeralis (evening bat).—Occupies entire state. The subspecies is *N. h. humeralis* (Rafinesque, 1818).

Plecotus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's big-eared bat).—Statewide in occurrence. The subspecies are *P. r. rafinesquii* Lesson, 1818, across the northern edge of the state and *P. r. macrotis* Le Conte, 1831, throughout the rest of Mississippi.

Family Molossidae (free-tailed bats)

Tadarida brasiliensis (Brazilian free-tailed bat).—Known from colonies scattered about state. The subspecies is *T. b. cynocephala* (Le Conte, 1831).

ORDER XENARTHRA—Edentates

Family Dasypodidae (armadillos)

Dasypus novemcinctus (nine-banded armadillo).—Reported from everywhere except extreme northeastern corner of state. The subspecies is *D. n. mexicanus* Peters, 1864.

ORDER LAGOMORPHA—Lagomorphs

Family Leporidae (hares and rabbits)

Sylvilagus aquaticus (swamp rabbit).—Found throughout state, including Horn Island. Lowery (1974) considered *S. aquaticus* (Bachman, 1837) as a monotypic species.

Sylvilagus floridanus (eastern cottontail).—Occupies entire state, including Horn Island. The subspecies are *S. f. alacer* (Bangs, 1896) in most of the state and *S. f. mallurus* (Thomas, 1898) in the southeastern and northeastern parts.

ORDER RODENTIA—Rodents

Family Sciuridae (squirrels and allies)

Tamias striatus (eastern chipmunk).—Recorded from most of state except southeastern portion. According to Jones and Suttks (1979), the subspecies is *T. s. striatus* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Marmota monax (woodchuck).—Occurs at scattered localities in northern one-half of state. The subspecies is *M. m. monax* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Sciurus carolinensis (gray squirrel).—Ranges throughout state. The subspecies are *S. c. fuliginosus* Bachman, 1839, along the Gulf Coast and *S. c. carolinensis* Gmelin, 1788, elsewhere.

Sciurus niger (fox squirrel).—Occupies entire state. The subspecies are *S. n. subauratus* Bachman, 1839, along the Mississippi River and *S. n. bachmani* (Lowery and Davis, 1942) in the rest of the state.

Glaucomys volans (eastern flying squirrel).—Reported from throughout state. The subspecies is *G. v. saturatus* A. H. Howell, 1915.

Family Castoridae (beavers)

Castor canadensis (beaver).—Found over most of state where suitable aquatic habitat prevails. The subspecies is *C. c. carolinensis* Rhoads, 1898.

Family Cricetidae (native mice and rats)

Oryzomys palustris (marsh rice rat).—Ranges throughout state. The subspecies are *O. p. texensis* J. A. Allen, 1894, in the southwestern part adjacent to Louisiana and *O. p. palustris* (Harlan, 1837) elsewhere.

Reithrodontomys fulvescens (fulvous harvest mouse).—Occurs in southwestern one-half of state. The subspecies is *R. f. aurantius* J. A. Allen, 1895.

Reithrodontomys humulis (eastern harvest mouse).—Known from entire state. The subspecies is *R. h. humulis* (Audubon and Bachman, 1841).

Peromyscus gossypinus (cotton mouse).—Reported from throughout state. The subspecies are *P. g. megacephalus* (Rhoads, 1894) in the northern one-half of Mississippi and *P. g. gossypinus* (Le Conte, 1853) in the southern part.

Peromyscus leucopus (white-footed mouse).—Ranges throughout state except for extreme southeastern part. The subspecies is *P. l. leucopus* (Rafinesque, 1818).

Peromyscus maniculatus (deer mouse).—Found only in northwestern corner of state. The subspecies is *P. m. bairdii* (Hoy and Kennicott, 1857).

Peromyscus polionotus (oldfield mouse).—Known from Lowndes, Tishomingo, Jasper, and Lauderdale counties. The subspecies is *P. p. colemani* Schwartz, 1954.

Ochrotomys nuttalli (golden mouse).—Statewide in distribution. The subspecies is *O. n. lisae* Packard, 1969.

Sigmodon hispidus (hispid cotton rat).—Found throughout state. The subspecies is *S. h. hispidus* Say and Ord, 1825.

Neotoma floridana (eastern woodrat).—Reported from entire state. The subspecies are *N. f. illinoensis* A. H. Howell, 1910, in the northern one-half of Mississippi and *N. f. rubida* Bangs, 1898, in the south.

Microtus pinetorum (woodland vole).—Ranges throughout state except in extreme southeastern part. The subspecies is *M. p. auricularis* Bailey, 1898.

Ondatra zibethicus (muskrat).—Occurs in suitable aquatic habitats in most of state, including Horn Island. The subspecies are *O. z. zibethicus* (Linnaeus, 1766) in the northern areas and *O. z. rivalicicus* (Bangs, 1895) along the Gulf Coast.

*Family Muridae (Old World rats and mice)

**Rattus norvegicus* (Norway rat).—Common in and near human habitations in state and on Horn Island.

**Rattus rattus* (roof rat).—Widespread throughout state, including Horn Island; sometimes found in and around human habitations in rural settings.

**Mus musculus* (house mouse).—Distributed throughout state (including Horn Island), usually in close association with humans, but feral populations also are known.

Family Zapodidae (jumping mice)

Zapus hudsonius (meadow jumping mouse).—Recorded only from Alcorn County (Kennedy *et al.*, 1982). The subspecies is probably *Z. h. intermedius* Krutzsch, 1954.

*Family Myocastoridae (myocastorids)

**Myocastor coypus* (nutria).—Found in aquatic habitats throughout state; also on Horn Island.

ORDER CARNIVORA—Carnivores

Family Canidae (canids)

**Canis familiaris* (domestic dog).—Feral animals occur in many parts of state.

Canis latrans (coyote).—Recorded from every county of state since first reported (Paradiso, 1966). The subspecies is *C. l. frustror* Woodhouse, 1851.

Canis rufus (red wolf).—Once ranged throughout state. Subspecies included *C. r. floridanus* Miller, 1912, in the extreme northeastern corner of Mississippi and *C. r. gregoryi* Goldman, 1937, elsewhere.

Vulpes vulpes (red fox).—Occurs throughout state. The subspecies is *V. v. fulva* (Desmarest, 1820).

Urocyon cinereoargenteus (gray fox).—Distributed throughout Mississippi. The subspecies are *U. c. ocythous* Bangs, 1899, in the northern one-third of the state and *U. c. floridanus* Rhoads, 1895, in the southern part.

Family Ursidae (bears)

Ursus americanus (black bear).—Once ranged across state; now restricted to parts of Mississippi Delta. The subspecies included *U. a. americanus* Pallas, 1780, in the northern part of the state and *U. a. luteolus* Griffith, 1821, in the southern one-half.

Family Procyonidae (procyonids)

Procyon lotor (raccoon).—Ubiquitous throughout state, including Horn Island. The subspecies is *P. l. varius* Nelson and Goldman, 1930.

Family Mustelidae (mustelids)

Mustela frenata (long-tailed weasel).—Reported from throughout state. The subspecies are *M. f. arthuri* Hall, 1927, from the

southwestern part of the state adjacent to Louisiana and *M. f. olivacea* Howell, 1913, from the rest of Mississippi.

Mustela vision (mink).—Ranges across entire state. The subspecies are *M. v. vulgivaga* (Bangs, 1895) in the southwest adjacent to Louisiana and southern Arkansas and *M. v. mink* Peale and Palisot de Beauvois, 1796, in the remainder of the state.

Spilogale putorius (eastern spotted skunk).—Occurs in southern and eastern parts of state; absent from northwest part adjacent to Arkansas. The subspecies is *S. p. putorius* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Mephitis mephitis (striped skunk).—Known from throughout state. The subspecies are *M. m. nigra* (Peale and Palisot de Beauvois, 1796) in most of Mississippi and *M. m. elongata* Bangs, 1895, along the Gulf Coast.

Lutra canadensis (river otter).—Reported from suitable aquatic habitats in most of state. The subspecies is *L. c. lataxina* F. Cuvier, 1823.

Family Felidae (cats)

**Felis catus* (domestic cat).—Feral animals occur in various places in state.

Felis concolor (mountain lion).—Once ranged throughout most of state. The subspecies was *F. c. coryi* Bangs, 1896.

Felis rufus (bobcat).—Reported in all areas of state. The subspecies is *F. r. floridanus* Rafinesque, 1817.

ORDER CETACEA—Whales

Family Balaenopteridae (rorquals)

Balaenoptera borealis (sei whale).—Reported from Gulfport Harbor.

Balaenoptera physalus (fin whale).—Recorded from off the southwest coast of Mississippi near southeastern Louisiana.

Family Delphinidae (delphinids)

Tursiops truncatus (bottle-nosed dolphin).—Fairly common along Gulf Coast, especially in Mississippi Sound.

Family Kogiidae (pygmy sperm whales)

Kogia breviceps (pygmy sperm whale).—Known from Mississippi Sound off Belle Fontaine Beach (Anonymous, 1984).

Kogia simus (dwarf sperm whale).—Recorded from beach at Biloxi, Mississippi.

ORDER SIRENIA—Sea Cows

Family Trichechidae (manatees)

Trichechus manatus (manatee).—Reported in waters of Harrison and Jackson counties.

ORDER ARTIODACTYLA—Even-toed Ungulates

*Family Suidae (pigs)

**Sus scrofa* (wild pig).—Populations of pigs, derived from domestic animals that became feral and from animals introduced for hunting, occur in various places in Mississippi, including Horn Island.

Family Cervidae (cervids)

Odocoileus virginianus (white-tailed deer).—Distributed throughout state. The subspecies are *O. v. virginianus* Zimmermann, 1780, in most of the northern parts of Mississippi and *O. v. osceola* (Bangs, 1896) along the Gulf Coast.

Family Bovidae (bovids)

Bison bison (bison).—Before extirpation, ranged throughout state except in some coastal marshes. The subspecies was *B. b. bison* (Linnaeus, 1758).

LITERATURE CITED

- ANONYMOUS. 1984. Newsletter, Bureau of Marine Resources, Long Beach, Mississippi, 5:1.
- BAKER, R. J., J. C. PATTON, H. H. GENOWAYS, AND J. W. BICKAM. 1988. Genic studies of *Lasiurus* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae). Occas. Papers Mus., Texas Tech Univ., 117:1-15.
- CARTER, C. H., R. G. RUMMEL, AND B. J. GUY. 1987. First record of the silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) in Mississippi. J. Mississippi Acad. Sci., 32:39-40.
- COOK, F. A. 1945. Fur resources of Mississippi. Surv. Bull., Mississippi Game and Fish Comm., Jackson, Mississippi, 100 pp.
- CRAIN, J. L., AND J. W. CLIBURN. 1965. A preliminary study of the mammals of southeastern Mississippi. J. Mississippi Acad. Sci., 11:271-280.
- GANDY, B. E. 1966. A preliminary check list of the vertebrates of Mississippi. State Wildlife Mus., Jackson, Mississippi, v + 34 pp.
- HALL, E. R. 1981. The mammals of North America. John Wiley and Sons, New York, 2nd ed., 1:xv + 1-600 + 90 and 2:vi + 601-1181 + 90.
- JONES, C., AND R. D. SUTTKUS. 1979. The distribution and taxonomy of *Tamias striatus* at the southern limits of its geographic range. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 91:828-839.

- JONES, J. K., JR., D. C. CARTER, H. H. GENOWAYS, R. S. HOFFMANN, D. W. RICE, AND C. JONES. 1986. Revised checklist of North American mammals north of Mexico, 1986. Occas. Papers Mus., Texas Tech Univ., 107:1-22.
- KENNEDY, M. L., G. A. HEIDT, AND P. K. KENNEDY. 1982. First record of the meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius*) in Mississippi. J. Mississippi Acad. Sci., 27:149-150.
- KENNEDY, M. L., K. N. RANDOLPH, AND T. L. BEST. 1974. A review of Mississippi mammals. Nat. Sci. Research Inst., Eastern New Mexico Univ., 2:ii + 1-36.
- LOWERY, G. H., JR. 1974. The mammals of Louisiana and its adjacent waters. Louisiana State Univ. Press, Baton Rouge, xxiii + 565 pp.
- MCSWAIN, C. B. 1967. The Mississippi wildlife conservation manual. Mississippi Game and Fish Comm., Jackson, 151 pp.
- PARADISO, J. L. 1966. Recent records of coyotes, *Canis latrans*, from the southeastern United States. Southwestern Nat., 11:500-501.
- RICHMOND, E. A. 1962. The fauna and flora of Horn Island, Mississippi. Gulf Coast Research Lab., Ocean Springs, Mississippi, 1:59-106.
- SCHMIDLY, D. J. 1981. Marine mammals of the southeastern United States coast and the Gulf of Mexico. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Serv., Washington, D. C., viii + 165 pp.
- VAN ZYLL DE JONG, C. J. 1985. Handbook of Canadian mammals. 2. Bats. Nat. Mus. Nat. Sci., Nat. Mus. Canada, 212 pp.
- WARD, R. P. 1965. The mammals of Mississippi. J. Mississippi Acad. Sci., 11:309-330.
- WARD, R. P., W. A. BILLUPS, AND A. C. LEWIS. 1961. A preliminary checklist of mammals inhabiting forested areas of the loess of west-central Mississippi. J. Mississippi Acad. Sci., 7:70.
- WOLFE, J. L. 1971. Mississippi land mammals: distribution, identification, ecological notes. Mississippi Mus. Nat. Sci., iv + 44 pp.

Addresses of authors: C. Jones, Department of Biological Sciences and The Museum, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409; C. H. Carter, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, 111 N. Jefferson St., Jackson, Mississippi 39202. Received 18 November 1988, accepted 26 January 1989.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MUSEUM
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Three serials of The Museum of Texas Tech University are published by Texas Tech University Press. Short research studies are published as Occasional Papers, whereas longer contributions appear as Special Publications. Papers of practical application to collection management and museum operations are issued in the Museology series. All are numbered separately and published on an irregular basis.

The preferred abbreviation for citing The Museum's Occasional Papers is *Occas. Papers Mus.*, Texas Tech Univ.

Institutional subscriptions (\$19/yr., typically 10 numbers issued per year) are available through Texas Tech University Press, Sales Office, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1037. Individuals can purchase separate numbers of the Occasional Papers for \$2.00 each from Texas Tech University Press. Remittance in U.S. currency check, money order, or bank draft must be enclosed with request (add \$1.00 per title or 200 pages of publications requested for foreign postage; residents of the state of Texas must pay sales tax on the total purchase price). Copies of the "Revised checklist of North American mammals north of Mexico, 1986" (Jones *et al.*, 1986, *Occas. Papers Mus.*, Texas Tech Univ., 107:1-22) are available at \$1.25 each in orders of 10 or more.

ISSN 0149-175X



Texas Tech University Press
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1037