CHECKLIST OF CALIFORNIA MAMMALS

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ABSTRACT

A checklist, consisting of 216 species of mammals found within California, is presented. Changes in nomenclature subsequent to the list of Jones et al. (1975, Revised checklist of North American mammals north of Mexico) are documented.

INTRODUCTION

This checklist is intended to provide an updated reference to the mammals of California. Since the publication of Ingles' (1965) "Mammals of the Pacific States," several systematic studies have resulted in changes in the names of species of mammals found in the wild in California. Additionally, five exotic species may have become established, and the wolf is now considered to be extinct within the State (McCullough, 1967). This brings the number of species to become extinct within California in the last century to three.

The vernacular names used here are primarily based upon Jones et al. (1975). Although a single vernacular name should apply to all populations of a species, there is more than one name in common use for some of the mammals found within California. Cetaceans are most notable in this respect. For a few species, I have adopted vernacular names different from those of Jones et al. (1975). In most of these cases, the names selected are widely known and generally accepted

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among mammalogists. In a few others, such as the hares of the genus *Lepus*, and *Dipodomys nitratoides*, more appropriate or less confusing names are used in preference to those in common use.

The scientific names in the list generally follow those of Jones et al. (1975). The New World rats and mice are regarded as a subfamily of the family Muridae, two orders of cetaceans are recognized, and the pinnipeds are treated as a suborder of the order Carnivora. Systematic studies that have resulted in changes in taxonomy subsequent to the list of Jones et al. (1975), and other departures from their nomenclature are documented below.

Hennings and Hoffmann (1977) showed that the dusky shrew (*Sorex obscurus*) is specifically distinct from *Sorex vagrans*, and pointed out that its proper name is *S. monticolus*. They also implied that *S. sinuosus* is a subspecies of *S. ornatus*. I concur with their view on this latter point, primarily because of the evidence given by Rudd (1955). I have retained *S. willetti* as a species since its status has not yet been investigated. I recognize *Myotis occultus* as a species distinct from *M. lucifugus* despite the works of Findley and Jones (1967) and Barbour and Davis (1970). This decision is based primarily upon the evidence given by Findley (1972). Hibbard (1963) presented compelling evidence that the pygmy rabbit, *Brachylagus idahoensis*, is not congeneric with the cottontails (*Sylvilagus*). Nadler et al. (1977) regarded *Eutamias* as a subgenus of *Tamias*. Callahan (1977) demonstrated that *Tamias* (*Eutamias*) *merriami* consisted of two species, *T. merriami* and *T. obscurus*. Patton et al. (1976) showed that *Dipodomys californicus* is specifically distinct from *D. heermanni*. I agree with Johnson’s (1973) recognition of *Arborimus* as a genus distinct from *Phenacomys*, and despite the lack of clarity in his discussion concerning the classification of the white-footed vole, I have included *albipes* in the genus *Arborimus*. I followed Orr (1972) in recognizing *Globicephala scammonii*. Van Gelder (1977, 1978) presented formidable arguments for the inclusion of the foxes in the genus *Canis*.

**Methods and Acknowledgments**

In the following list, species not native to California are indicated by an asterisk (*) following their scientific name. Some of the introduced species may not have established viable populations in the wild; those with uncertain status are indicated by a question mark (?) following their vernacular name.

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**Checklist**

**Order Marsupialia—marsupials**

**Family Didelphidae—New World opossums**

*Didelphis virginiana* * Virginia opossum
Order Insectivora—Insectivores

Family Soricidae—Shrews

Sorex lyelli ................................ Mt. Lyell shrew
Sorex vagrans ................................ vagrant shrew
Sorex monticolus ............................. dusky shrew
Sorex pacificus ............................... Pacific shrew
Sorex ornatus ................................. ornate shrew
Sorex willettii ................................ Santa Catalina shrew
Sorex tenellus ................................ Inyo shrew
Sorex palustris ................................ water shrew
Sorex bendirii ................................ marsh shrew
Sorex trowbridgii ......................... Trowbridge’s shrew
Sorex merriami .............................. Merriam’s shrew
Notiosorex crawfordi ..................... desert shrew

Family Talpidae—Moles

Neurotrichus gibbsii ....................... shrew-mole
Scapanus townsendii ..................... Townsend’s mole
Scapanus orarius ............................ coast mole
Scapanus latimanus ....................... broad-footed mole

Family Phyllostomatidae—Leaf-nosed Bats

Myotis lucifugus ............................. little brown myotis
Myotis occultus ............................. Arizona myotis
Myotis yumanensis ........................ Yuma myotis
Myotis velifer .............................. cave myotis
Myotis evotis ................................ long-eared myotis
Myotis thysanodes ........................ fringed myotis
Myotis volans ............................... long-legged myotis
Myotis californicus ....................... California myotis
Myotis leibii ................................ small-footed myotis
Lasionycteris noctivagans ............... silver-haired bat
Pipistrellus hesperus ........................ western pipistrelle
Eptesicus fuscus ............................ big brown bat
Lasiurus borealis ............................ red bat
Lasiurus cinereus ........................... hoary bat
Lasiurus ega ................................ southern yellow bat
Euderma maculatum ......................... spotted bat
Plecotus townsendii ........................ Townsend’s big-eared bat
Antrozous pallidus ......................... pallid bat

Family Molossidae—Free-tailed Bats

Tadarida brasiliensis .................... Brazilian free-tailed bat
| Animal Family | Species | Common Name |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| Tadarida femorosacca | pocketed free-tailed bat |
| Tadarida macrotis | big free-tailed bat |
| Eumops perotis | western mastiff bat |

**Order Lagomorpha—lagomorphs**

**Family Ochotonidae—pikas**

- Ochotona princeps — pika

**Family Leporidae—hares and rabbits**

- Brachylagus idahoensis — pygmy rabbit
- Sylvilagus bachmani — brush rabbit
- Sylvilagus nuttallii — Nuttall's cottontail
- Sylvilagus auduboni — desert cottontail
- Oryctolagus cuniculus* — European rabbit ?
- Lepus americanus — snowshoe hare
- Lepus townsendii — white-tailed hare
- Lepus californicus — black-tailed hare

**Order Rodentia—rodents**

**Family Aplodontidae—mountain beaver**

- Aplodontia rufa — mountain beaver

**Family Sciuridae—squirrels**

- Marmota flaviventris — yellow-bellied marmot
- Spermophilus townsendii — Townsend's ground squirrel
- Spermophilus beldingi — Belding's ground squirrel
- Spermophilus mohavensis — Mohave ground squirrel
- Spermophilus tereticaudus — round-tailed ground squirrel
- Spermophilus variegatus — rock squirrel
- Spermophilus beecheyi — California ground squirrel
- Spermophilus lateralis — golden-mantled ground squirrel
- Ammospermophilus leucurus — white-tailed antelope squirrel
- Ammospermophilus nelsoni — San Joaquin antelope squirrel
- Tamias alpinus — alpine chipmunk
- Tamias minimus — least chipmunk
- Tamias amoenus — yellow-pine chipmunk
- Tamias panamintinus — Panamint chipmunk
- Tamias umbrinus — Uinta chipmunk
- Tamias speciosus — lodgepole chipmunk
- Tamias siskiyou — Siskiyou chipmunk
- Tamias senex — Allen's chipmunk
- Tamias ochrogenys — yellow-cheeked chipmunk
- Tamias quadrimaculatus — long-eared chipmunk
- Tamias sonomae — Sonoma chipmunk
- Tamias merriami — Merriam's chipmunk
- Tamias obscurus — chaparral chipmunk
- Sciurus griseus — western gray squirrel
- Sciurus carolinensis* — gray squirrel
| Species                          | Description                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sciurus niger*                  | fox squirrel                         |
| Tamiasciurus douglasii          | Douglas’ squirrel                    |
| Glaucomys sabrinus              | northern flying squirrel              |

**Family Geomyidae—pocket gophers**

| Species                          | Description                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Thomomys bottae                 | southwestern pocket gopher            |
| Thomomys talpoides              | northern pocket gopher                |
| Thomomys townsendii             | Townsend’s pocket gopher              |
| Thomomys monticola              | mountain pocket gopher                |
| Thomomys mazama                 | western pocket gopher                 |

**Family Heteromyidae—heteromyid rodents**

| Species                          | Description                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Perognathus longimembris        | little pocket mouse                   |
| Perognathus inornatus           | San Joaquin pocket mouse              |
| Perognathus parvus              | Great Basin pocket mouse              |
| Perognathus xanthonotus         | yellow-eared pocket mouse             |
| Perognathus alticola            | white-eared pocket mouse              |
| Perognathus formosus            | long-tailed pocket mouse              |
| Perognathus baileyi             | Bailey’s pocket mouse                 |
| Perognathus penicillatus        | desert pocket mouse                   |
| Perognathus fallax              | San Diego pocket mouse                |
| Perognathus californicus        | California pocket mouse               |
| Perognathus spinatus            | spiny pocket mouse                    |
| Microdipodops megacephalus      | dark kangaroo mouse                   |
| Microdipodops pallidus          | pale kangaroo mouse                   |
| Dipodomys heermannii            | Heermann’s kangaroo rat               |
| Dipodomys panamintinus          | Panamint kangaroo rat                 |
| Dipodomys stephensi             | Stephen’s kangaroo rat                |
| Dipodomys ingens                | giant kangaroo rat                    |
| Dipodomys merriami              | Merriam’s kangaroo rat                |
| Dipodomys nitratoides           | San Joaquin kangaroo rat              |
| Dipodomys ordii                 | Ord’s kangaroo rat                    |
| Dipodomys agilis                | Pacific kangaroo rat                  |
| Dipodomys venustus              | narrow-faced kangaroo rat             |
| Dipodomys elephantinus         | big-eared kangaroo rat                |
| Dipodomys microps               | chisel-toothed kangaroo rat           |
| Dipodomys deserti               | desert kangaroo rat                   |
| Dipodomys californicus          | California kangaroo rat               |

**Family Castoridae—beaver**

| Species                          | Description                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Castor canadensis               | beaver                               |

**Family Muridae—mice and rats**

| Species                          | Description                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Reithrodontomys megalotis       | western harvest mouse                 |
| Reithrodontomys raviventris     | salt marsh harvest mouse              |
| Peromyscus californicus         | California mouse                      |
| Peromyscus crinitus             | canyon mouse                          |
| Peromyscus eremicus             | cactus mouse                          |
Peromyscus maniculatus .................. deer mouse
Peromyscus boylii ......................... brush mouse
Peromyscus truei ........................ pinyon mouse
Onychomys leucogaster .................... northern grasshopper mouse
Onychomys torridus ....................... southern grasshopper mouse
Sigmodon hispidus ........................ hispid cotton rat
Sigmodon arizonae ......................... Arizona cotton rat
Neotoma albigula ........................ white-throated wood rat
Neotoma lepida ........................... desert wood rat
Neotoma fuscipes ........................ dusky-footed wood rat
Neotoma cinerea .................... bushy-tailed wood rat
Clethrionomys occidentalis .............. western red-backed vole
Phenacomys intermedius .................. heather vole
Arborimus albipes ........................ white-footed vole
Arborimus longicaudus ................... red tree vole
Microtus oregoni ......................... creeping vole
Microtus montanus ....................... montane vole
Microtus californicus .................... California vole
Microtus townsendii ..................... Townsend's vole
Microtus longicaudus .................... long-tailed vole
Lagurus curtatus ............................ sagebrush vole
Ondatra zibethicus ...................... muskrat
Rattus norvegicus* ....................... Norway rat
Rattus rattus* ............................. black rat
Mus musculus* ............................ house mouse

Family Zapodidae—jumping mice
Zapus princeps ............................ western jumping mouse
Zapus trinotatus .......................... Pacific jumping mouse

Family Erethizontidae—New World porcupines
Erethizon dorsatum ........................ porcupine

Family Capromyidae—capromyid rodents
Myocastor coypus* ........................ nutria ?

Order Odontoceti—toothed whales
Family Ziphiidae—beaked whales
Berardius bairdii .......................... Baird's beaked whale
Mesoplodon stejnegeri ................... North Pacific beaked whale
Mesoplodon carlhubbsi ................... Moore's beaked whale
Ziphius cavirostris ....................... goose-beaked whale

Family Physeteridae—sperm whales
Physeter catodon ........................ sperm whale
Kogia breviceps ........................... pygmy sperm whale

Family Delphinidae—porpoises and dolphins
Stenella graffmani ........................ Eastern Pacific spotted dolphin
Stenella caeruleoalba ..................... blue and white dolphin
Delphinus delphis ........................................ common dolphin
Tursiops gilli ........................................... Pacific bottle-nosed dolphin
Lagenorhynchus obliquidens .......................... Pacific white-sided dolphin
Lissodelphis borealis ................................ northern right-whale dolphin
Orcinus orca ................................................ killer whale
Grampus griseus ........................................... Risso's dolphin
Pseudorca crassidens .................................. false killer whale
Globicephala scammonii ................................. North Pacific pilot whale
Steno bredanensis ...................................... rough-toothed dolphin
Phocoena phocoena ...................................... harbor porpoise
Phocoenoides dalli ..................................... Dall's porpoise

Order Mysticeti—baleen whales
Family Eschrichtiidae—gray whale
Eschrichtius robustus .................................... gray whale
Family Balaenopteridae—rorquals
Balaenoptera physalus .................................. fin whale
Balaenoptera borealis ................................... Sei whale
Balaenoptera acutorostrata ............................. minke whale
Balaenoptera musculus .................................. blue whale
Megaptera novaeangliae ................................ hump-backed whale

Order Carnivora—carnivores
Family Canidae—canids
Canis latrans ............................................. coyote
Canis lupus ............................................... gray wolf (extinct)
Canis vulpes ............................................... red fox
Canis macroots ........................................... kit fox
Canis cinereoargenteus ................................ gray fox
Canis littoralis .......................................... insular gray fox
Family Ursidae—bears
Ursus americanus ......................................... black bear
Ursus arctos ............................................. grizzly bear (extinct)
Family Procyonidae—procyonids
Bassariscus astutus ...................................... ringtail
Procyon lotor ............................................. raccoon
Family Mustelidae—mustelids
Martes americana ........................................ marten
Martes pennanti ......................................... fisher
Mustela erminea ......................................... ermine
Mustela frenata ......................................... long-tailed weasel
Mustela vison ............................................ mink
Gulo gulo .................................................. wolverine
Taxidea taxus ............................................. badger
Spilogale gracilis .................................. western spotted skunk
Mephitis mephitis .................................. striped skunk
Lutra canadensis .................................. river otter
Enhydra lutris .................................. sea otter

FAMILY FELIDAE—felids
   Felis concolor .................................. mountain lion
   Felis rufus ...................................... bobcat

FAMILY OTARIIDAE—eared seals
   Callorhinus ursinus ........................ northern fur seal
   Arctocephalus townsendi ................... Guadalupe fur seal
   Eumetopias jubata ............................ northern sea lion
   Zalophus californianus ...................... California sea lion

FAMILY PHOCIDAE—hair seals
   Phoca vitulina ................................ harbor seal
   Phoca fasciata ................................ ribbon seal
   Mirounga angustirostris .................... northern elephant seal

ORDER PERISSODACTYLA—odd-toed ungulates
   FAMILY EQUIDAE—horses and asses
      Equus asinus* ................................ wild burro
      Equus caballus* ............................ wild horse

ORDER ARTIODACTYLA—even-toed ungulates
   FAMILY SUIDAE—pigs
      Sus scrofa* .................................. wild pig

   FAMILY CERVIDAE—deer
      Cervus elaphus ................................ wapiti
      Cervus unicolor* ............................ sambar ?
      Cervus dama* ................................ fallow deer ?
      Cervus axis* ................................ axis deer ?
      Odocoileus hemionus ....................... mule deer
      Odocoileus virginianus ................. white-tailed deer

   FAMILY ANTilocapridae—pronghorns
      Antilocapra americana .................... pronghorn

   FAMILY BOVIDAE—bovids
      Ovis canadensis .......................... mountain sheep
      Capra hircus* ................................ goat ?
      Ammotragus lervia* ........................ Barbary sheep
      Hemitragus jemlahicus* ................ Himalayan tahr
      Bison bison ............................ bison (extinct)

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