

Chapter I

Introduction to Mammals of the South

Margaret K. Trani, W. Mark Ford, and Brian R. Chapman

Introduction

The South has an impressive diversity of mammal associations and terrestrial communities. These communities range from montane spruce-fir forests to tropical hardwoods and from coastal dunes to dry prairies. Centuries of settlement and land use change have shaped and modified the mammal communities observed in the South today.

Wildlife of the presettlement South was quite impressive. Dickson (2001) describes large herds of bison (*Bison bison*) and elk (*Cervus elaphus*) roaming throughout once extensive prairies and savannas. White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) were numerous throughout the region. Large carnivores such as the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), and red wolf (*Canis rufus*) were abundant; the diverse habitats, including those maintained by Native Americans, supported a variety of prey populations. The South changed dramatically with the arrival of Europeans to the North American landscape. Settlement resulted in the extensive clearing of forest and conversion of the land to pasture or cropland (DeGraaf and Miller 1996). Natural resources were treated as if they were inexhaustible. Forests were harvested with little thought for forest regeneration, and soils were seriously depleted through excessive cropping and erosion. Mammal species and their habitat were exploited without concern for their persistence. Extirpations and declines in species abundance that occurred during the last half of the 19th Century remain unparalleled in the history of the South.

The 20th Century brought federal legislation that championed species conservation efforts in the South

and elsewhere including the Pittman-Robertson Act (1937) and the Dingle-Johnson Act (1950) that apportioned funds for restoration projects, habitat acquisition, and research. This was followed by the Wilderness Act (1964), Endangered Species Act (1966), National Environmental Policy Act (1970), Marine Mammal Protection Act (1971), and National Forest Management Act (1976). Parallel efforts also occurred within most state governments in the South. Forest industry, an important land steward in the region, recognized the importance of mammals as a component of biodiversity through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (Guynn et al. 2004) and the environmentally responsible management practices it promoted (Brown et al. 2001). Other standards such as the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (Montreal Process Working Group 1998, Flather and Hull 2000, Gullison 2003) provided additional impetus for landowners to consider the role of mammals as related to ecosystem integrity, forest health, and productivity. Other important developments include the ongoing State Wildlife Grants Program (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2006) that establish comprehensive strategies for the proactive conservation and management of a broad array of species and their habitats.

Through these and other management and regulatory efforts, conditions for many mammal species have improved across the South (Dickson 2001). For example, despite being seriously depleted in most of the South during the last century, the white-tailed deer and American beaver are now common throughout. The northern river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) has

been restored in many of the watersheds where they historically occurred. Recent reintroductions of elk in the mountainous portions of Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee have proven successful in establishing breeding populations in areas where extirpation had occurred 125 years earlier. Continued success has established northeastern North Carolina as a permanent red wolf recovery site. Active state management programs throughout the region have contributed greatly in expanding populations of American black bear. Some species, such as the coyote (*Canis latrans*), have expanded their range into the South since European settlement.

Other species however, continue to be of concern. Habitat loss and degradation remain significant threats to the long-term survival of the Florida panther (*P. c. coryi*). Industrial and residential water pollution renders habitat unsuitable for the American mink (*Mustela vison*), as the species is vulnerable to environmental contaminants in some parts of the South. Cave disturbance, vandalism, and loss of day-roosting and foraging habitat have led to the decline of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*). Island populations of the beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus*) are vulnerable to extinction from habitat loss due to coastal development, predation by domestic cats (*Felis catus*), and competition with house mice (*Mus musculus*).

Purpose and Overview of the Guide

Mammals are an important component of the landscape. They influence vegetation communities and they play significant roles in nutrient cycling and ecosystem integrity. Some species are among the most familiar of animals: the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and northern raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). In contrast, some mammals such as the Insectivores (shrews and moles), the Chiropterans (bats), and many rodent species remain cryptic; the life history and distribution of these groups are poorly known. The general public has little awareness with species such as the masked shrew (*Sorex cinereus*) or the Seminole bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*). Yet, successful management and conservation of mammals in the South requires a complete understanding of their ecology and habits. It is important to know the factors that comprise suitable habitat, define their environment, determine what they consume, how they interact with other species, and in general what role they play in the ecosystems of which they are a part. The ranges of many species cross both public and private land ownerships; each landowner has an important

role to play in the conservation of mammals and their habitats.

The purpose of this guide is to provide land managers with comprehensive information on the life history and habitat associations of southern mammals. We have assembled much of what is known of the natural history and distribution of terrestrial mammals in the southern United States. This information will be useful for assessing how management and environmental change may influence species, both positively and negatively.

Chapter 2 characterizes the vegetative communities associated with mammals of the South. For each community, plant species, physical features, and environmental influences on plant associations are described. Mammal associations are presented within 17 categories of terrestrial communities and five major categories of aquatic habitats. Chapter 3 describes each mammalian order and family, providing highlights of unique physical characteristics and adaptations. Dichotomous keys for identifying each species are provided using pelage, body measurements, and cranial characteristics. Chapter 4 is comprised of the individual species accounts, which provide an overview of relevant taxonomy, conservation status, current distribution, ecology, life history characteristics, and guidelines for management.

This text is a general synopsis of basic information and not intended as a comprehensive guide to all of the scientific literature, nor does the empirical data exist to adequately assess the influence of land management on each species. References to a significant portion of the published literature are included to serve as a gateway to additional, detailed information. In other cases, gaps in the current state of knowledge are identified to inspire further basic and applied research efforts.

References for the United States (Hall 1981, Webster et al. 1985, Choate et al. 1994, Jones et al. 1997, and Baker et al. 2003) and recent literature were used to produce a list of the mammals that occur in the South. Extant native species and subspecies are included along with introduced mammals including the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), black rat (*R. rattus*), house mouse, nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), and feral pig (*Sus scrofa*). Introduced species with extremely limited ranges are not discussed, nor are the feral dog (*Canis familiaris*), feral cat, and feral horse (*Equus caballus*). The area of coverage is the 13 states of the southern United States: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and the forested eastern portions of Texas and Oklahoma.

Conservation Status of Mammals in the South

A review of the conservation status for each species is presented relative to federal listing and Natural Heritage global and state rankings. The intent was to focus attention on those taxa viewed as sensitive or in need of conservation management. Such identification fosters an understanding of the problems associated with mammalian persistence as well as directs attention on management opportunities. Currently in the South, 22 species or subspecies are listed as Threatened or Endangered (Table 1.1). These include 13 rodents, four bats, four carnivores, one rabbit, and one hoofed mammal. Of those, 16 are unique to the southern United States. Seven of those listed are endemic subspecies of the oldfield mouse (*Peromyscus polinotus*), each limited to coastal barrier islands on the Atlantic or Gulf Coasts.

Natural Heritage global and state rankings (Table 1.2) provide a detailed conservation snapshot of the region's mammals. Many species and subspecies, while not listed as threatened or endangered from a regulatory standpoint, still have high global and state rankings. Commonness throughout the majority of a mammal's distribution often does not confer commonness in disjunct populations or on distributional peripheries. Several mammals in the South occur as isolated relicts in the Appalachian Mountains or in limited, specialized habitats elsewhere such as the near-tropical portions of southern Florida. Similarly, some "rare" species are best thought of as prairie associates that expand into the South as western disjuncts or holdovers from a period when fire-maintained prairie or savanna habitats were more common prior to European settlement. Whether naturally uncommon in the South or displaying a rarity brought about by human activity and landscape changes, these rankings help scale down the conservation status of mammals from the region to a meaningful state level.

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Table I.I. Mammal Species with Federal, Threatened, or Endangered Status in the South (Source: United States Department of the Interior 2007).

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | STATUS ^A | WHERE LISTED |
|--|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Order Chiroptera | | | |
| <i>Corynorhinus townsendii ingens</i> | Ozark big-eared bat | E | Entire range |
| <i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i> | Virginia big-eared bat | E | Entire range |
| <i>Myotis grisescens</i> | Gray myotis | E | Entire range |
| <i>Myotis sodalis</i> | Indiana myotis | E | Entire range |
| Order Lagomorpha | | | |
| <i>Sylvilagus palustris hefneri</i> | Lower Keys marsh rabbit | E | Entire range |
| Order Rodentia | | | |
| <i>Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus</i> | Carolina northern flying squirrel | E | Entire range |
| <i>Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus</i> | Virginia northern flying squirrel | E | Entire range |
| <i>Microtus pennsylvanicus dukecampbelli</i> | Florida salt marsh vole | E | Entire range |
| <i>Neotoma floridana smalli</i> | Key Largo woodrat | E | Entire range |
| <i>Oryzomys palustris natator</i> | Rice rat | E | Lower Florida Keys |
| <i>Peromyscus gossypinus allapaticola</i> | Key Largo cotton mouse | E | Entire range |
| <i>Peromyscus polionotus alophrys</i> | Choctawhatchee beach mouse | E | Entire range |
| <i>Peromyscus polionotus ammobates</i> | Alabama beach mouse | E | Entire range |
| <i>Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris</i> | Southeastern beach mouse | T | Entire range |
| <i>Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis</i> | St. Andrew beach mouse | E | Entire range |
| <i>Peromyscus polionotus phasma</i> | Anastasia Island beach mouse | E | Entire range |
| <i>Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis</i> | Perdido Key beach mouse | E | Entire range |
| <i>Sciurus niger cinereus</i> | Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel | E | Entire population except where EXPN |
| Order Carnivora | | | |
| <i>Canis rufus</i> | Red wolf | E | Entire range except where EXPN |
| <i>Puma concolor coryi</i> | Florida panther | E | Entire range |
| <i>Puma concolor</i> | Mountain lion (all subspecies except <i>P. c. coryi</i>) | SAT | Florida |
| <i>Ursus americanus luteolus</i> | Louisiana black bear | T | Entire range |
| <i>Ursus americanus</i> | American black bear | SAT | County range of Louisiana black bear |
| Order Artiodactyla | | | |
| <i>Odocoileus virginianus clavium</i> | Key deer | E | Entire range |

^aE=Endangered; T=Threatened; SAT= Similarity of appearance to a threatened taxon; EXPN=Experimental population.

Table 1.2. Global and State Conservation Status Ranks for Mammals in the South (Source: NatureServe 2007).

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | AREAS OF OCCURRENCE |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| DIDELPHIMORPHIA | | |
| G5^a | | |
| <i>Didelphis virginiana</i> | Virginia opossum | AL (S5) ^b , AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (S5), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| INSECTIVORA | | |
| G4 | | |
| <i>Sorex dispar</i> | Long-tailed shrew | GA (S1), KY (S1), NC (S2), TN (S2), VA (S3) |
| G5 | | |
| <i>Blarina brevicauda</i> | Northern short-tailed shrew | AL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S5), NC (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Blarina carolinensis</i> | Southern short-tailed shrew | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S4), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S3), SC (SNR), TX (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Blarina hylophaga</i> | Elliot's short-tailed shrew | AR (SNR), LA (SNR), OK (S4), TX (S1) |
| <i>Condylura cristata</i> | Star-nosed mole | FL (SNR), GA (S2?), NC (S4), SC (S3?), TN (S2), VA (S4) |
| <i>Cryptotis parva</i> | Least shrew | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S4), MS (SNR), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Notiosorex crawfordi</i> | Crawford's desert shrew | AR (S1?), OK (S3), TX (S4) |
| <i>Parascalops breweri</i> | Hairy-tailed mole | GA (S1), KY (S4), NC (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S3), VA (S5) |
| <i>Scalopus aquaticus</i> | Eastern mole | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S4S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Sorex cinereus</i> | Masked shrew | GA (S2S3), KY (S3), NC (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Sorex fumeus</i> | Smoky shrew | GA (S3?), KY (S5), NC (S4), SC (S4), TN (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Sorex hoyi</i> | Pygmy shrew | AL (S1), GA (S2), KY (S4), NC (S3), SC (S3S4), TN (S2), VA (S4) |
| <i>Sorex longirostris</i> | Southeastern shrew | AL (S4), AR (S2?), FL (S5), GA (S4), KY (S4), LA (S2S3), MS (S4), NC (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Sorex palustris</i> | American water shrew | GA (S1), NC (S2), SC (SNR), TN (S2), VA (S1) |
| CHIROPTERA | | |
| G1 | | |
| <i>Eumops glaucinus</i> | Wagner's bonneted bat | FL (S1) |
| G2 | | |
| <i>Myotis sodalis</i> | Indiana myotis | AL (S2), AR (S2), KY (S1S2), NC (SUB), OK (S1), SC (S1), TN (S1), VA (S1) |
| G3 | | |
| <i>Myotis grisescens</i> | Gray myotis | AL (S2), AR (S2), FL (S1), GA (S1), KY (S2), OK (S2), SC (S1), TN (S2), VA (S1S2) |
| <i>Myotis leibii</i> | Eastern small-footed myotis | AL (S1), AR (S1), GA (S2?), KY (S2), NC (SUB, S2N), OK (S1), SC (S1), TN (S2S3), VA (S1) |
| G3G4 | | |
| <i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> | Rafinesque's big-eared bat | AL (S2), AR (S2), FL (S2), GA (S3?), KY (S3), LA (S3S4), MS (S3?B, S3?N), NC (S3), OK (S1), SC (S2?), TN (S3), TX (S3), VA (S2) |
| <i>Myotis austroriparius</i> | Southeastern myotis | AL (S2), AR (S2?), FL (S3), GA (S3), KY (S1S2), LA (S4), MS (S1?B, S1?N), NC (S3), OK (S1), SC (S1), TN (S3), TX (S3), VA (S1S2) |

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | AREAS OF OCCURRENCE |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| G4 | | |
| <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> | Townsend's big-eared bat | AR (S1), KY (S1), NC (S1), OK (S3), SC (S1), TN (SNR), TX (S3?), VA (S1) |
| <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> | Northern long-eared myotis | AL (S2), AR (S2), FL (SH), GA (S3S4), KY (S4), LA (SNR), MS (S3?B, S3?N), NC (S3), OK (S2), SC (S4), TN (S4), VA (S3S4) |
| G4G5 | | |
| <i>Lasiurus intermedius</i> | Northern yellow bat | AL (S1), FL (SNR), GA (S2S3), LA (S4), MS (S2?), NC (SU), SC (SNR), TX (S4) |
| G5 | | |
| <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> | Big brown bat | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (S3), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S1S2), MS (S5B, S5N), NC (S5), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> | Silver-haired bat | AL (SNR), AR (S2?), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (SNA), LA (S1), NC (S2?B, S4N), OK (S2), SC (SNR), TN (S4S5), TX (S4), VA (SUB, S4N) |
| <i>Lasiurus borealis</i> | Eastern red bat | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S4), MS (S4S5), NC (S5), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S4), VA (S4) |
| <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> | Hoary bat | AL (SNR), AR (S3?), FL (SU), GA (S4), KY (SNA), LA (S4), MS (S3?), NC (S1?B, S3?N), OK (S3), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S4), VA (SUB, S3N) |
| <i>Lasiurus seminolus</i> | Seminole bat | AL (S4S5), AR (S1?), FL (SNR), GA (S5), LA (S4), MS (SNR), NC (S3S4B), OK (S1), SC (SNR), TX (S3) |
| <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> | Little brown myotis | AL (S3), AR (S3?), FL (SNR), GA (S3), KY (S5), MS (S3?B, S3?N), NC (S4), OK (S1), SC (S3?), TN (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Nycticeius humeralis</i> | Evening bat | AL (S5), AR (S3?), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S3), LA (S5), MS (SNRB, SNRN), NC (S5B), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S4) |
| <i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i> | Eastern pipistrelle | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S4S5), LA (S4S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i> | Brazilian free-tailed bat | AL (S3), AR (S3), FL (SNR), GA (S4), LA (S4), MS (S5), NC (S4), OK (S3), SC (SNR), TX (S5) |
| XENARTHRA | | |
| G5 | | |
| <i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i> | Nine-banded armadillo | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S4), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (SNA), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S3), TX (S5) |
| LAGOMORPHA | | |
| G4 | | |
| <i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i> | Appalachian cottontail | AL(S1), GA(S1S2), NC(S3), SC(S3), TN(S3), VA(S4?) |
| G5 | | |
| <i>Lepus americanus</i> | Snowshoe hare | NC (SX), VA (S1) |
| <i>Lepus californicus</i> | Black-tailed jackrabbit | AR (S3), FL (SNA), OK (S5), TX (S5), VA (SNA) |
| <i>Sylvilagus aquaticus</i> | Swamp rabbit | AL (S5), AR (S3S4), GA (S5), KY (S3S4), LA (S5), MS (S5), OK (S2), SC (S2S3), TN (S4), TX (S5) |
| <i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i> | Eastern cottontail | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Sylvilagus palustris</i> | Marsh rabbit | AL (S3), FL (SNR), GA (S5), NC (S5), SC (SNR), VA (S3) |
| RODENTIA | | |
| G3 | | |
| <i>Neofiber alleni</i> | Round-tailed muskrat | FL (S3), GA (S3) |
| <i>Podomys floridanus</i> | Florida mouse | FL (S3) |

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | AREAS OF OCCURRENCE |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| G3G4 | | |
| <i>Neotoma magister</i> | Allegheny woodrat | AL (S3), KY (S4), NC (S2), TN (S3), VA (S3) |
| G4 | | |
| <i>Microtus chrotorrhinus</i> | Rock vole | NC (S3), SC (SNR), TN (SNR), VA (S1) |
| G4G5 | | |
| <i>Baiomys taylori</i> | Northern pygmy mouse | TX (S4) |
| G5 | | |
| <i>Castor canadensis</i> | American beaver | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Chaetodipus hispidus</i> | Hispid pocket mouse | LA (S2), OK (S5), TX (S5) |
| <i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i> | Southern red-backed vole | GA (S3S4), KY (S3), NC (S4), SC (S2S3), TN (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Geomys breviceps</i> | Baird's pocket gopher | AR (SNR), LA (S3S4), OK (SNR), TX (S4) |
| <i>Geomys pinetis</i> | Southeastern pocket gopher | AL (S3), FL (S5), GA (S4) |
| <i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i> | Northern flying squirrel | NC (S2), TN (SNR), VA (S1) |
| <i>Glaucomys volans</i> | Southern flying squirrel | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S3), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Marmota monax</i> | Woodchuck | AL (S5), AR (S4), GA (S3), KY (S5), MS (S4?), NC (S5), OK (S3), SC (SNR), TN (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Microtus ochrogaster</i> | Prairie vole | AL (S2), AR (S4), KY (S5), LA (SX), OK (S5), TN (S3), TX (S1) |
| <i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i> | Meadow vole | FL (SNR), GA (S3S4), KY (S5), NC (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Microtus pinetorum</i> | Woodland vole | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S4), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S3), VA (S5) |
| <i>Mus musculus</i> | House mouse | AL (SNA), AR (SNA), FL (SNA), GA (SNA), KY (SNA), LA (SNA), MS (SNA), NC (SNA), OK (SNA), SC (SNA), TN (SNA), TX (SNA), VA (SNA) |
| <i>Myocastor coypus</i> | Nutria | AL (SNA), AR (SNA), FL (SNA), GA (SNA), LA (SNA), MS (SNA), NC (SNA), OK (SNA), TX (SNA), VA (SNA) |
| <i>Napaeozapus insignis</i> | Woodland jumping mouse | GA (S3), KY (S4), NC (S4), SC (S4?), TN (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Neotoma floridana</i> | Eastern woodrat | AL (S4), AR (S4), FL (S5), GA (S5), LA (S4), MS (SNR), NC (S3), OK (S5), SC (S3S4), TN (SNR), TX (S5) |
| <i>Ochrotomys nuttalli</i> | Golden mouse | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S4), LA (S4S5), MS (SNR), NC (S5), OK (S1), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S4), VA (S4) |
| <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i> | Common muskrat | AL (S5), AR (S4), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S4S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Oryzomys palustris</i> | Marsh rice rat | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S4), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S2), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Peromyscus attwateri</i> | Texas mouse | AR (S4), OK (S4), TX (S5) |
| <i>Peromyscus gossypinus</i> | Cotton mouse | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S2), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S3), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S3) |
| <i>Peromyscus leucopus</i> | White-footed mouse | AL (S4), AR (S4), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i> | Deer mouse | AR (S4), GA (S5), KY (S4), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Peromyscus polionotus</i> | Oldfield mouse | AL (S5), FL (S5), GA (S5), MS (S2S3), NC (S1?), SC (SNR), TN (S4S5) |
| <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> | Norway rat | AL (SNA), AR (SNA), FL (SNA), GA (SNA), KY (SNA), LA (SNA), MS (SNA), NC (SNA), OK (SNA), SC (SNA), TN (SNA), TX (SNA), VA (SNA) |

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| <i>Rattus rattus</i> | Black rat | AL (SNA), AR (SNA), GA (SNA), LA (SNA), MS (SNA), NC (SNA), OK (SNA), TN (SNA), TX (SNA), VA (SNA) |
| <i>Reithrodontomys fulvescens</i> | Fulvous harvest mouse | AR (S4), LA (S4), MS (SNR), OK (S4), TX (S5) |
| <i>Reithrodontomys humulis</i> | Eastern harvest mouse | AL (S5), AR (S1?), FL (SNR), GA (S4), KY (S4), LA (S3S4), MS (SNR), NC (S4), OK (S1), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i> | Western harvest mouse | AR (S3S4), OK (S2), TX (S5) |
| <i>Reithrodontomys montanus</i> | Plains harvest mouse | AR (S1?), OK (S5), TX (S5) |
| <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i> | Eastern gray squirrel | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Sciurus niger</i> | Eastern fox squirrel | AL (S3S4), AR (S4), FL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S3), OK (S5), SC (S4), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S4) |
| <i>Sigmodon hispidus</i> | Hispid cotton rat | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S3S4), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Synaptomys cooperi</i> | Southern bog lemming | AR (S2S3), GA (S1), KY (S4), NC (S3), SC (SNR), TN (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Tamias striatus</i> | Eastern chipmunk | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (S2), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S3S4), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i> | Red squirrel | GA (S3), NC (S5), SC (S3?), TN (S4S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Zapus hudsonius</i> | Meadow jumping mouse | AL (S3), AR (SNR), GA (S3), KY (S4), MS (S1), NC (S3), OK (S1), SC (SNR), TN (S4), VA (S5) |
| CARNIVORA | | |
| GIQ | | |
| <i>Canis rufus</i> | Red wolf | AL (SX), AR (SX), FL (SX), GA (SX), KY (SX), LA (SX), MS (SX), NC (S1), OK (SX), SC (S1), TN (SX), TX (SX), VA (SX) |
| G5 | | |
| <i>Bassariscus astutus</i> | Ringtail | LA (SNR), OK (S3), TX (S4) |
| <i>Canis latrans</i> | Coyote | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S4?), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S4), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Lontra canadensis</i> | Northern river otter | AL (S4), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S3S4), LA (S4), MS (S4), NC (S4), OK (S2), SC (SNR), TN (S3), TX (S3), VA (S4) |
| <i>Lynx rufus</i> | Bobcat | AL (S4), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S4), LA (S4), MS (S5), NC (S4), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S4) |
| <i>Martes pennanti</i> | Fisher | NC (SX), TN (S1), VA (S1) |
| <i>Mephitis mephitis</i> | Striped skunk | AL (S4), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S4S5), MS (S5), NC (S4), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Mustela frenata</i> | Long-tailed weasel | AL (S3), AR (S2?), FL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S4), LA (S2S4), MS (SNR), NC (S3S4), OK (S1), SC (S3S4), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Mustela nivalis</i> | Least weasel | GA (S1), KY (S2S3), NC (S2), SC (SNR), TN (S2), VA (S3) |
| <i>Mustela vison</i> | American mink | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S4), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S4), VA (S5) |
| <i>Procyon lotor</i> | Northern raccoon | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Puma concolor</i> | Mountain lion | AL (SX), AR (S1), FL (S4), GA (SH), KY (SX), LA (S1), MS (S1), NC (SH), OK (S1), SC (SH), TX (S2), VA (SNR) |
| <i>Spilogale putorius</i> | Eastern spotted skunk | AL (S2S3), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S4), KY (S2S3), LA (S1), MS (S2), NC (S3), OK (S2), SC (S4), TN (S3), TX (S4), VA (S3S4) |
| <i>Taxidea taxus</i> | American badger | OK (S4), TX (S5) |
| <i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i> | Common gray fox | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S4), LA (S4S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S4), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |

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| <i>Ursus americanus</i> | American black bear | AL (S2), AR (S3), FL (S5), GA (S4), KY (S2), LA (S2), MS (S1), NC (S4), OK (S1), SC (S3?), TN (S3), TX (S3), VA (S4) |
| <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | Red fox | AL (S4), AR (S4), FL (SNR), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S4), MS (S4S5), NC (S5), OK (S3), SC (SNR), TN (SNA), TX (S4), VA (S5) |
| ARTIODACTYLA | | |
| G5 | | |
| <i>Cervus elaphus</i> | Elk | AL (SX), AR (SX), GA (SX), KY (SX), LA (SX), NC (S1), OK (SX), SC (SX), TN (SX), TX (S2S3), VA (SX) |
| <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> | White-tailed deer | AL (S5), AR (S4), FL (S5), GA (S5), KY (S5), LA (S5), MS (S5), NC (S5), OK (S5), SC (SNR), TN (S5), TX (S5), VA (S5) |
| <i>Sus scrofa</i> | Feral pig | FL (SNA), GA (SNA), KY (SNA), MS (SNA), NC (SNA), TN (SNA), TX (SNA), VA (SNA) |

^a Global ranking: G1 (Critically imperiled); G1Q (Critically Imperiled: Taxonomic distinctiveness of this species at the current level is questionable); G2 (Imperiled); G3 (Vulnerable); G4 (Apparently Secure); G5 (Secure).

^b State ranking: SX (Presumed Extirpated); SH (Possibly Extirpated); S1 (Critically Imperiled); S2 (Imperiled); S3 (Vulnerable); S4 (Apparently Secure); S5 (Secure); SR (Reported); SZ (Migratory Transient); SE (Exotic); SNR (Unranked); SUB (Under Review); SNA (Not Applicable); SNRN (Not Ranked/Not Applicable); S? (Uncertainty exists about this numeric rank).