



MAMMALS OF CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE

Compiled by Robert P. Cook, Cape Cod National Seashore

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Introduction

The following list is based on prior ones compiled by my predecessors, and has been updated to reflect our current state of knowledge regarding the present status and historic occurrence (i.e. presence at time of European arrival in early 17th century) of mammals at Cape Cod National Seashore. Current status is based on trapping surveys by NPS scientists, observations and data collected by others studying Cape Cod mammals, credible sightings by park employees and visitors, and other credible reports (most documented by photos). Determination of historic occurrence was based on review of accounts by 17th century explorers and colonists, archeological literature, writings of late 19th – early 20th century zoologists and naturalists, and more recent works on regional mammals that have evaluated the historic record.

ORDER DIDELPHIMORPHIA

Family Didelphidae (New World Opossums)

Opossum – *Didelphis virginiana* [uncommon, expanded range north in 20th Century]

ORDER RODENTIA

Family Sciuridae (Squirrels, Marmots, Chipmunks)

Eastern Chipmunk – *Tamias striatus* [common]

Woodchuck – *Marmota monax* [rare, declining due to habitat succession]

Gray Squirrel – *Sciurus carolinensis* [abundant]

Red Squirrel – *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* [common]

Southern Flying Squirrel – *Glaucomys volans* [uncommon]

Family Castoridae (Beaver)

American Beaver - *Castor canadensis* [extirpated on Cape Cod]

Family Dipodidae (Jumping Mice)

Meadow Jumping Mouse - *Zapus hudsonius* [common]

Family Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, Lemmings)

Meadow Vole – *Microtus pennsylvanicus* [abundant]

Southern Red-backed Vole – *Clethrionomys gapperi* [common]

Muskrat – *Ondatra zibethicus* [common]

White-footed Mouse – *Peromyscus leucopus* [abundant]

Family Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)

Norway Rat – *Rattus norvegicus* [introduced, known occurrences associated with livestock]

House Mouse – *Mus musculus* [introduced, rare, no records]

Family Erethizontidae (New World Porcupines)

Porcupine – *Erethizon dorsatus* [extirpated, now re-colonizing, recent record in Eastham]

ORDER LAGOMORPHA

Family Leporidae (Rabbits, Hares and Pika)

Snowshoe Hare – *Lepus americanus* [rare, historically associated with white cedar swamps]

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit – *Sylvilagus floridanus* [introduced – common, widespread]

New England Cottontail Rabbit – *Sylvilagus transitionalis* [rare, declining]



ORDER SORICOMORPHA

Family Scoricidae (Shrews)

Northern Short-tailed Shrew – *Blarina brevicauda* [uncommon]

Masked Shrew - *Sorex cinereus* [common]

Family Talpidae (Moles)

Star-nosed Mole – *Condylura cristata* [abundance unknown, records needed]

Eastern Mole – *Scalopus aquaticus* [abundance unknown, records needed]

ORDER CHIROPTERA

Family Vespertilionidae (Evening Bats)

Big Brown Bat – *Eptesicus fuscus* [common]

Red Bat – *Lasiurus borealis* [migrate thru Cape Cod. abundance unknown]

Hoary Bat – *Lasiurus cinereus* [migrate thru Cape Cod, abundance unknown]

Silver-haired Bat – *Lasionycteris noctivagans* [migrate thru Cape Cod, abundance unknown]

Little Brown Bat – *Myotis lucifugus* [abundance unknown, MA Endangered]

Northern Long-eared Bat – *Myotis septentrionalis* [abundance unknown, MA Endangered]

ORDER CARNIVORA

Family Felidae (Cats)

Bobcat – *Lynx rufus* [extirpated, now re-colonizing region, recorded on Upper Cape 2013]

Eastern Mountain Lion – *Puma concolor* [extirpated]

Family Canidae (Coyotes, Dogs, Foxes, Jackals, Wolves)

Northeastern Coyote or Coywolf – *Canis latrans* [common]

Eastern Timber Wolf – *Canis lupus lycaon* [extirpated]

Gray Fox - *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* [extirpated, current status uncertain]

Red Fox – *Vulpes vulpes* [common, introduced in southern New England – uncommon]

Family Ursidae (Bears)

American Black Bear – *Ursus americanus* [extirpated, re-colonizing, one recorded 2012]

Family Phocidae (Earless or True Seals)

Hooded Seal – *Cystophora cristata* [occasional]

Gray Seal – *Halichoerus grypus* [abundant, population recovered with end to bounty hunting]

Harp Seal – *Pagophilus groenlandicus* [occasional]

Harbor Seal – *Phoca vitulina concolor* [uncommon]

Ringed Seal – *Pusa hispida* [rare]

Family Mustelidae (Weasels, Minks, Martens, Otters)

River Otter – *Lontra canadensis* [uncommon, occurs throughout park in wetlands]

Fisher – *Martes pennanti pennanti* [now uncommon, previously extirpated, have re-colonized]

Ermine - *Mustela erminea* [reportedly present but no known Outer Cape records]

Long-tailed Weasel – *Mustela frenata* [uncommon]

American Mink – *Neovison vison* [status unknown, no recent records]

Family Mephitidae (Skunks)

Striped Skunk – *Mephitis mephitis* [common]

Family Procyonidae (Raccoons, Coatis, Ringtails)

Raccoon – *Procyon lotor* [common]



ORDER ARTIODACTYLA

Family Cervidae (Deer, Elk, Moose)

White-tailed Deer – *Odocoileus virginianus* [now common, formerly extirpated in 1800's]

ORDER CETACEA-Suborder Mysticeti (Baleen Whales)

Family Balaenidae (Right and Bowhead Whales)

Northern Right Whale* – *Eubalaena glacialis* [uncommon, can be seen in spring at Race Point]

Family Balaenopteridae (Rorquals)

Minke Whale – *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* [common]

Sei Whale* – *Balaenoptera borealis* [occasional]

Blue Whale* – *Balaenoptera musculus* [occasional]

Fin Whale* – *Balaenoptera physalus* [common]

Humpback Whale* – *Megaptera novaengliae* [common]

ORDER CETACEA-Suborder Odontoceti (Toothed Whales)

Family Delphinidae (Dolphins, Killer, and Pilot Whales)

Short-beaked Common Dolphin - *Delphinus delphis* [rare, regular winter visitor]

Long-finned Pilot Whale - *Globicephala melas* [rare]

Risso's Dolphin or Grampus - *Grampus griseus* [occasional]

Atlantic White-sided Dolphin - *Lagenorhynchus acutus* [common]

White-beaked Dolphin - *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* [occasional]

Killer Whale - *Orcinus orca* [occasional]

Striped dolphin - *Stenella coeruleoalba* [occasional]

Bottlenosed dolphin - *Tursiops truncatus* [occasional]

Family Phocoenidae (Porpoises)

Harbor Porpoise – *Phocoena phocoena* [common]

Family Physeteridae (Sperm Whales)

Sperm Whale* - *Physeter macrocephalus* [occasional]

*listed as state and federally endangered

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