

# Mammals

# FRINGED MYOTIS

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## *Myotis thysanodes*

Mouse-eared Bat Family

## Evaluation Species



**Description:** A medium-sized (wingspread: 26-30 cm [10 - 12 in.]; mass: 5 - 7 g [0.18 - 0.25 oz]), buffy brown bat with relatively long black ears. A fringe of short hairs that project backward from the edge of the tail membrane is a diagnostic feature since this is the only species of bat in Nevada with a fringe of hairs on the tail membrane. Fringed myotis are colonial but male and female do so separately. Nursery colonies exceed several hundred individuals. A single offspring is born during June or July.

**Diet:** Forages in the early evening, flying slowly and feeding on a variety of insects including moths, caddis flies, and flies.

**Habitat:** Desert scrub, pinyon-juniper, and coniferous forest habitats, usually at elevations of 1,200 - 2,100 m (4,000 - 7,000 ft). Roosts in caves, mines, rock crevices, trees, and buildings.

**Range:** This species occurs across the southern half of Canada and southward through most of the United States. In Clark County, Nevada, this species occurs predominantly at higher elevations but is found at low elevations during spring and fall migration. Probably migrates south for the winter.

# LONG-EARED MYOTIS

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## *Myotis evotis*

## Covered Species

Mouse-eared Bat Family



J.G. Hall/American Society of Mammalogists

**Description:** A medium-sized (wingspread: 27 cm [11 in.]; mass: 5 - 8 g [0.18 - 0.28 oz]), pale brown bat with long, thick glossy fur. Ears dark, usually black, and longer than in any other species of *Myotis* (if laid forward, ears extend about 5 - 6 mm [0.25 in.] beyond the tip of the nose). Ears with a medium-length, pointed tragus. Compared to the closely related Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), this species has measurably longer ears and lacks the fringe of hairs lining the tail membrane. Males of the long-eared myotis are solitary; females form small groups in maternity colonies, with less than 40 individuals. Offspring born in late June and July.

**Diet:** A late-night forager over water (lakes and ponds), also forages among trees in forested areas. Feeds primarily on moths; also eats beetles, flies, flying ants, wasps, and other flying insects.

**Habitat:** In Southern Nevada primarily found in mixed conifer habitat with ponderosa pine, or at higher elevations. In Northern Nevada common in pinyon-juniper and above, but also found in sagebrush and salt desert scrub habitats. Forages along rivers and streams, riparian areas, and agricultural areas associated with springs and rivers. Day roosts include dead trees, buildings, mines, caves, crevices, and beneath bark. Night roosts include caves, mines, and under bridges.

**Range:** Occurs throughout western North America. Thought to be fairly common throughout Nevada except in southern Nevada where severe population declines have occurred.

# LONG-LEGGED MYOTIS

## *Myotis volans*

Mouse-eared Bat Family

## Covered Species



**Description:** A medium-sized (wingspread: 25 - 27 cm [10 - 11 in.]; mass: 7 - 9 g [0.25 - 0.32 oz]) bat with tawny, dark reddish, or nearly black fur above; grayish to pale buff below. Ears short and rounded. Underside of membranes furred to a line between the elbow and the knee. Other bats with a similar appearance and likely to be found in southern Nevada have the underside of wing membrane naked to the elbow. Long-legged myotis mate in fall; one offspring born during June to July. Females form maternity colonies of up to several hundred individuals. Lifespan up to 21 years.

**Diet:** Small moths and other small beetles, flies, and termites.

**Habitat:** Primarily mixed conifer and pinyon-juniper habitats above 1,220 m (4,000 ft.) elevation. Found in low numbers in virtually all areas of Clark County, Nevada. Day roosts include hollow trees (especially large snags), under bark, rock crevices, mines, and buildings. Night roosts include caves and mines. Depends on constant sources of water, especially rivers and springs. Hibernates in caves and mines other than roost sites.

**Range:** Occurs throughout western North America from southern Alaska to northern Mexico. Found throughout Nevada, it may be less abundant in the southern portion and only found at higher elevations in the Spring Mountains. May be a permanent resident in Nevada, but winter behavior is poorly understood.

# PALE TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT

*Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*

Evaluation Species

Mouse-eared Bat Family



**Description:** A large (wingspread: 30 - 32 cm [12 - 13 in.]; mass: 9 - 11 g [0.32 - 0.39 oz]) big-eared bat with pale gray or brown fur above and buff fur below. Ears enormous, more than 2.5 cm (1 in.) long, joined across the top of the head, and without lobes (lappets) on the inner edge near the base. Nose has two large glandular lumps in front of the eyes. Wing membranes are naked. Mates during fall and winter; one offspring is born during late spring or early summer. Up to 200 females congregate in caves, mines, or buildings to form maternity colonies. Colonial in nurseries and during hibernation; may be solitary during part of the year. Other species of big-eared bats likely to be found in southern Nevada may be difficult to separate, but this species is unique with its conspicuous bumps on the nose that are not found on any other species.

**Diet:** Feeds on small moths and other small flying insects.

**Habitat:** Highly associated with caves and mines. Found from low desert to high mountain habitats at elevations between 210 - 3,500 m (to over 11,000 ft.). Day roosts include mines, caves, and occasionally cliffs, cracks, or crevices. Night roosts include abandoned buildings.

**Range:** The subspecies occurs throughout much of the western United States including southern and eastern Nevada. In Clark County, this bat has been documented in the Spring and Newberry mountains, at the eastern portion of Lake Mead, and along the Muddy River. It is suspected to occur elsewhere in suitable habitat.

# SILVER-HAIRED BAT

*Lasionycteris noctivagans*

Mouse-eared Bat Family

Covered Species



R.W. Van Deventer/American Society of Mammalogists

**Description:** A medium-sized bat (wingspread: 30 cm [12 in.]; mass: 7 - 11 g [0.25 - 0.40 oz]), nearly black with silver-tipped hairs on the dorsum giving it a frosted appearance. Tail membrane with fairly thick fur on dorsal surface. Ears short, rounded, and naked. Flies fairly high, slow, and straight. No other species of bat likely to be found in southern Nevada has black fur with silver-tipped hairs. Silver-haired bats may be solitary or occur in small groups. Uses multiple roost sites and switch frequently. Mates in the fall; usually two offspring born in early summer.

**Diet:** Forages above open forest, streams, ponds, and open brushy areas in the early evening. Feeds on moths and other soft-bodied insects.

**Habitat:** In summer, found in mixed conifer, pinyon-juniper, and high elevation riparian habitats below 2,750 m (9,000 ft); during spring and fall found at the lower elevations of its habitat. Roosts in hollow trees, dead trees, and under bark. Females may use abandoned woodpecker holes for maternity roosts. During winter, roosts in rock crevices, caves, and buildings; probably migrates south.

**Range:** Occurs throughout southern Canada, the U.S., and northern Mexico. Widely distributed and locally common in Nevada. Migrates northward in the spring and is a summer resident in mountain forests.

# SMALL-FOOTED MYOTIS

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## *Myotis ciliolabrum*

## Evaluation Species

Mouse-eared Bat Family



Merlin D. Tuttle/Batcon

**Description:** A small (wingspread: 21 - 25 cm [8 - 10 in.]; mass: 6 - 9 g [0.21 - 0.32 oz]) bat with long, silky light-yellowish fur above, and a distinct black mask across the eyes and ears. The ears and wing membranes are also black. The tip of the tail extends roughly 0.4 cm (0.16 in.) beyond the edge of the tail membrane but can easily be overlooked. Other species of bats likely to be found in southern Nevada generally lack the distinct black mask and have tails that either are entirely contained within the tail membrane or extend far beyond the tail membrane (i.e., freetail bats). This species gives birth to one offspring in late spring or early summer. Roosts alone or in groups in caves, mines, and trees.

**Diet:** Forages early in the evening, feeding on small insects such as moths and beetles. Flies low among trees and over shrubs.

**Habitat:** Occurs in deserts, chaparral, riparian zones, and conifer forests. Most common in forested areas at elevations above the pinyon-juniper zone. Elevations: 862 - 2,585 m (2,830 - 8,480 ft.).

**Range:** Occurs throughout Clark County, Nevada, and in western North America from southern Canada to Mexico.

**Comments:** Older texts refer to this species as *Myotis leibii* and *Myotis subulatus*. This species is quite easily confused morphologically with *Myotis californicus*. Few bat experts can distinguish between them in the hand. However, they are easily identified acoustically.

# KIT FOX

*Vulpes macrotis arsipus*

Dog Family

Evaluation Species



D. Bradford Hardenbrook

**Description:** The smallest fox (head and body: 40 - 50 cm [15 - 20 in.], approx. 3 - 5 lbs.) in Nevada with notably large ears relative to the head and a long, cylindrical bushy tail. Fur is pale gray dorsally, tawny to slightly orange-red on the sides, and undersides whitish. Only the tail tip is black. Compared to the kit fox, the larger gray fox (*Urocyon argenteus*) has smaller ears, its coat dorsally steel gray with orange-red sides, whitish belly and tail grayish, thickly furred, triangular in cross section with a black dorsal “mane” running the length to the black tip. The only other similar looking wild dog is the much larger coyote (*Canis latrans*). Kit foxes generally attain adulthood by their second year, mate for life, and breed from January to February; 3 - 5 pups are born during March and April. Kit foxes are dependent on a series of dens (usually earthen) throughout the year to survive harsh desert extremes and predators, and to rear young.

**Diet:** Primarily rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles, eggs, scorpions, and crickets.

**Habitat:** Uses a variety of habitats. In Nevada, primarily inhabits Mojave desert scrub, salt desert scrub, blackbrush, mesquite, and lowland riparian; may also frequent sagebrush and agricultural lands below 5,000 feet elevation.

**Range:** Kit foxes are associated with the arid southwest of North America.

**Comments:** Although not widely accepted, fairly recent studies indicate that the swift foxes (*V. velox*) of the Great Plains and kit foxes do not warrant nominal species distinction. However, swift and kit foxes are distinct subspecies, hence the suggested nominal subspecies of *V. v. velox* and *V. v. macrotis*, respectively.

# NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL

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*Sylvilagus nuttallii*

Rabbit Family

Evaluation Species



**Description:** A small (head and body: 30 - 36 cm [12 - 14 in.]) brownish rabbit with a reddish nape and a short, white tail (i.e., a typical cottontail bunny). For a rabbit, the ears are relatively short (6 cm [2.4 in.]). The short, white tail and ears distinguish cottontails from jackrabbits. Nuttall's cottontail occurs at higher elevations, which separates this species from the lower-elevation, longer-eared (8 - 10 cm [3 - 4 in.]) desert cottontail. Primarily active during crepuscular and night hours, cottontails are often seen along roadways. Litters of 4 - 6 blind and naked offspring born from April to July.

**Diet:** Grasses, mesquite, cactus, twigs, and bark.

**Habitat:** Mountains, at higher elevations; sagebrush, forest, and brushy areas up to timberline.

**Range:** Southernmost Canada and western U.S. except southwestern deserts. In Nevada, this species occurs in northern and central areas, but an isolated population occurs in the Spring Mountains.

**Comments:** Nuttall's cottontail is also called the mountain cottontail.

# BUSHY TAIL WOODRAT

*Neotoma cinerea lucida*

Rodent Family

Evaluation Species



C.D. Grandahl/American Society of Mammalogists

**Description:** A medium-sized rodent (head and body: 18 - 25 cm [7-10 in.]; tail: 13 - 19 cm [5 - 7 in.]) with a fairly bushy, squirrel-like tail. The dorsal coloration varies from pale gray to black, but often it is light brownish and peppered with black hairs. The ventral coloration is whitish. There are no stripes or other marks, and the overall appearance is uniformly smooth. The only other species of rodent in southern Nevada that could be confused with this species is the rock squirrel (*Spermophilus variegatus*). However, the woodrat is smaller than the rock squirrel, has a less bushy tail, has a uniformly smooth appearance (rather than mottling), occurs at higher elevations, and is nocturnal. This woodrat nests high in trees and probably produces 1 - 2 litters of 2 - 6 offspring during spring and summer.

**Diet:** Green vegetation, twigs, nuts, seeds, mushrooms; also animal matter often in the form of carrion. Collects and stores food.

**Habitat:** Higher elevation coniferous forests, rocky areas, and rimrock.

**Range:** Western North America from southern Alaska south to southern Nevada, northern Arizona, and northwestern New Mexico. This subspecies occurs across northern and eastern Nevada, and south to the Sheep Mountains. A separate population occurs in the Spring Mountains from Mt. Charleston to Mt. Potosi.

**Comments:** Also referred to as packrat or trade rat. Packrats are attracted to small shiny objects, which they will collect and deposit on the surface of their nests.

# CHISEL-TOOTHED KANGAROO RAT

*Dipodomys microps occidentalis*

Evaluation Species

Rodent Family



Ron Allig

**Description:** Kangaroo rats are recognized by their kangaroo-like appearance: large hind legs and feet, small front feet, and long tufted tails. They hop on their hind legs. The Chisel-toothed kangaroo rat is medium sized (head and body: 10 - 13 cm [4 - 5 in.]; tail: 15 - 18 cm [6 - 7 in.]) and has coloration that is fairly dark buff above, whitish below. The tail has light side stripes that are narrower than dark dorsal and ventral stripes. The hind foot has five toes and enough hair to give it a snowshoe appearance. The incisors are flat on the anterior surface. In southern Nevada, the five toes, hairy feet, flat incisors, and its range distinguish this species from others. Offspring (1 - 4) born during May and June.

**Diet:** Green vegetation and seeds.

**Habitat:** Desert floors and rocky desert slopes with sandy or gravelly soils below the pinyon-juniper belt. Found in association with sagebrush, shadscale, and greasewood.

**Range:** The species occurs throughout the Great Basin; this subspecies occurs throughout Nevada in most mid- and lower-elevation areas except along the Muddy River drainage and eastern Clark County.

**Comments:** Also called the Great Basin kangaroo rat.

# DESERT KANGAROO RAT

*Dipodomys deserti*

Rodent Family

Evaluation Species



T.L. Best/American Society of Mammalogists

**Description:** Kangaroo rats are recognized by their kangaroo-like appearance: small front feet, large hind feet and muscular legs on which they hop, and long tufted tails that help balance when rapidly hopping. The desert kangaroo rat is the largest member (head and body: 16 cm [6.5 in.]; tail: 18 - 22 cm [7 - 8.5 in.]) found in Nevada. Overall color is a pale buffy yellow, with a prominent tuft of long white hairs on the tip of the tail and four toes on the hind feet. Except for the possible presence of a dark ring on the tail anterior to the tuft of white hairs, this species is entirely pale. Other species of kangaroo rats in southern Nevada are smaller, darker, and lack the prominent white-tufted tail tip. Desert kangaroo rats are nocturnal and solitary. When excited, they kick sand and drum the ground with their hindfeet, or leap straight into the air. Produces 1 - 2 litters of 1 - 6 offspring per year that are born from January to July.

**Diet:** Seeds, root crowns of perennial grasses, and some green vegetation.

**Habitat:** Areas with fairly deep (at least 50 cm [20 in.]) wind-blown sand, in hopsage, blackbrush, Mojave mixed scrub, creosote-bursage, and salt desert scrub habitats.

**Range:** Southwestern desert endemic; western and southern Nevada, southeastern California, western Arizona, and western Mexico. In Nevada, this species is found in lower-elevation desert areas as far north as Humboldt County. Common throughout Clark County in the appropriate habitats.

# DESERT POCKET MOUSE

*Chaetodipus penicillatus sobrinus*

Evaluation Species

Rodent Family



A. L. Roesl/American Society of Mammalogists

**Description:** Pocket mice are difficult to recognize from other kinds of small mouse-like mammals unless they are captured. Pocket mice have cheek pouches with openings near the mouth, but these pouches are outside the mouth. Other species of small mammals (especially squirrels) can pack food materials into the mouth and push out the cheeks. Pocket mice, often difficult to tell apart, can be recognized by its small size (head and body: 7 - 10 cm [3 - 4 in.]), coarse fur, and long crested tail with a tuft of long hairs on the tip. The dorsal color is yellowish brown to yellowish gray, and interspersed with black hairs. Ventral surfaces of the body and tail are white. Pocket mice are active above ground during nocturnal hours. One litter of 2 - 8 offspring born each year.

**Diet:** Feeds on seeds, including those of forbs, grasses, mesquite, and creosote bush.

**Habitat:** Open sandy desert floors with mesquite and catclaw, Mojave desert scrub, or salt desert scrub associated with deep (>50 cm [20 in.] wind-blown sand).

**Range:** Southwestern desert endemic. This subspecies occurs along the Colorado, Muddy, and Virgin rivers in Nevada, Arizona, and Utah, and south to Davis, Arizona. Also found in the Las Vegas Valley.

**Comments:** Older texts use *Perognathus* for the genus name.

# PANAMINT KANGAROO RAT

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*Dipodomys panamintinus caudatus*

Evaluation Species

Rodent Family



**Description:** Kangaroo rats are recognized by their kangaroo-like appearance; small feet, large hind feet, and muscular legs on which they hop. They also have long tails that help with balance when rapidly hopping. The Panamint species is relatively large (head and body: 13 cm [5 in.]; tail: 18 cm [7 in.]), is overall grayish-brown above, cinnamon on the sides, and white below. The tail is slightly crested and has pale dusky stripes on the dorsal and ventral surfaces. Hind feet have five toes. The lower incisors are round in cross-section. Produces four offspring per year. Kangaroo rats are inactive above ground during the day. They do not hibernate, but are inactive during cold weather. They drum feet, squeal, and growl when excited. Within the range of this subspecies, other kangaroo rats have four toes on the hind feet. In addition, the large size, dark marks, five toes, and round incisors serve to separate this species from others.

**Diet:** Seeds.

**Habitat:** Desert areas with sandy or gravelly soils and widely scattered creosote bush, Joshua trees, juniper, sagebrush, and scattered pinyon. In southern Nevada, found in areas of extensive yucca.

**Range:** Extreme western Nevada, southward in a narrow band through scattered areas to southern California. This subspecies occurs as an isolated population in southern Nevada near Searchlight and in the Providence Mountains of southeastern California.

# INYO SHREW

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## *Sorex tenellus*

Shrew Family

## Evaluation Species

Dale & Marian Zimmerman (photo of a *Notiosorex crowfordii*)



**Description:** Shrews are small, mouse-like mammals with long, pointed noses, lots of sharp teeth, short velvet-like fur, and tiny, beady eyes. This species is small (head and body: 6 cm [2.5 in.]; tail: 4 cm [1.5 in.]) and has short fur that is grayish-brown above and lighter below. Because of its rapid metabolism, as in other shrews, the dwarf shrew is continuously active day and night and has a voracious appetite. This is the only species of shrew known to occur in southern Nevada.

**Diet:** Feeds on soft-bodied invertebrates.

**Habitat:** Mountainous areas. Shaded damp situations near decaying logs and along the bases of cliffs in the bottom of canyons, not farther than 300 m (900 ft) from running water.

**Range:** Occurs on a few high mountain peaks in southwestern Nevada and east-central California. In Clark County, Nevada, known only from the Mt. Charleston area.

**Comments:** Little is known about this species, and it was last recorded on Mt. Charleston in 1939. Also known as the Dwarf Shrew. This probably is the smallest mammal in Nevada. The above species is Desert shrew (*Notiosorex crowfordii*), not the Inyo shrew (*Sorex tenellus*).

# GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL

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*Spermophilus lateralis certus*  
Squirrel Family

Evaluation Species



J.T. Brunson/American Society of Mammalogists

**Description:** A medium-sized ground squirrel (head and body: 14 - 20 cm [6 - 8 in.]) with reddish fur on the head and shoulders (i.e., a golden mantle) and one white stripe bordered by black on each side of the body. Above the stripes, the back is brownish; the belly is white. This species resembles a large chipmunk, but it is distinguished by a white eye-ring on a solid-colored, reddish face (chipmunks have black and white stripes on a brownish face). Golden-mantled ground squirrels yearly produce one litter of 4 - 6 offspring in the early summer. They hibernate in burrows during the winter.

**Diet:** Seeds, nuts, fruits supplemented by green vegetation, insects, and fungi.

**Habitat:** Mountainous areas, generally moist coniferous and mixed forests from middle elevations (yellow pine belt) to above timberline. Sometimes found in pinyon-juniper and sagebrush habitats. Logs and rocks provide cover.

**Range:** The species occurs throughout western North America from southern Canada to southern Arizona and New Mexico, and from the Pacific coast eastward to central Colorado. In Clark County, Nevada, the nominal subspecies occurs only in the Spring Mountains.

**Comments:** Also called the golden-mantled squirrel. Older texts use *Citellus* as the genus name.

# HIDDEN FOREST UINTA CHIPMUNK

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*Tamias umbrinus nevadensis*

Evaluation Species

Squirrel Family



**Description:** Chipmunks are small squirrels with distinctive black and white stripes on the face. Other small squirrels may have eye rings, but not eye stripes. This species is small (head and body: 11 - 13 cm [4.5 - 5 in.]) with distinct dark and light stripes on the back and face, which is a diagnostic feature. Primarily are a tree dwelling species. One litter of five offspring born in late June or early July. Two species of chipmunk occur in the Sheep Mountains. The Hidden Forest Uinta chipmunk is recognized by the features described above. The other species, the Cliff Chipmunk (*Tamias dorsalis*), has poorly contrasting, indistinct stripes on the back.

**Diet:** Feeds on seeds, nuts, fruit, and berries.

**Habitat:** Mountainous areas, primarily in yellow pine and higher-elevation coniferous forests, mixed woodlands, and open areas.

**Range:** The species occurs in west-central California, Nevada, Utah, north-central Arizona, western Wyoming, and northwestern Colorado. This subspecies occurs only in the Sheep Mountains at elevations of 2,350 - 2,600 m (7,700 - 8,500 ft).

**Comments:** Older texts refer this species to the genus *Eutamias*.

# PALMER'S CHIPMUNK

*Tamias palmeri*

Squirrel Family

Covered Species



Cris Tomlinson

**Description:** Chipmunks are really small squirrels distinguishable from other similar-sized mammals by the presence of alternating black and white facial stripes. Other small squirrels may have rings, but not eye stripes. Palmer's chipmunk (head and body: 13 cm [5 in.]) has distinct dark and light stripes on the back and on the face. Found at higher elevations in the Spring Mountains, in comparison to the Panamint Chipmunk (*T. panamintinus*) which occurs at lower elevations in the pinyon-juniper belt. Panamint chipmunk is slightly smaller and has more brightly colored flanks, yet has solid black and white stripes. It also has a more distinct gray rump. Where these two species overlap they are difficult to identify.

**Diet:** Mainly conifer seeds; also flowers, berries, green vegetation, insects.

**Habitat:** Bristlecone pine and mixed conifer habitats with rocky slopes or areas with free-flowing water at elevations of 2,100 - 3,050 m (7,000 - 10,000 ft). Found in deep, mesic canyons and canyon floors where fallen logs, rocks, small caves, and cliff crevices provide shelter. Also found in picnic areas.

**Range:** Endemic to the Spring Mountains. Known to occur in the Deer Creek, Mummy Springs, and Macks Canyon areas, and on the east side of Mt. Charleston.

**Comments:** Older texts use *Eutamias* for the genus name, and some older texts use Charleston Mountain Chipmunk for the common name. The most recent evidence suggests that *T. palmeri* is a subspecies of *T. umbrinus*.

# LONG-TAILED WEASEL

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*Mustela frenata*

Weasel Family

Evaluation Species

C.D. Grandtall/American Society of Mammalogists



**Description:** Weasels are small mammals with long slender bodies, long necks, and short legs. In this species, the head and body is 20 - 25 cm (8 - 10 in.) long, and the tail is 8 - 15 cm (3 - 6 in.) long. Males are larger than females. In summer, coloration is brown above and yellow-white below. The feet are brown, and the tip of the tail is black. In winter, coloration is all white except the black tip on the tail. Compared to the short-tailed weasel, this species is larger, has brown feet, and has a longer tail; may be difficult to distinguish species in winter. This is the most widespread carnivore in the Western Hemisphere. Produces 4 - 8 offspring during the spring.

**Diet:** Primarily small mammals to the size of a small rabbit; also birds, insects, and earthworms. Probably takes any small animal.

**Habitat:** Almost all habitats in the Western Hemisphere.

**Range:** This species occurs across southern Canada, most of the U.S. (except the southwestern deserts), and southward into South America. In Clark County, Nevada, this species occurs as an isolated population in the Spring Mountains and in the Muddy River and Virgin River areas.

# SHORT-TAILED WEASEL

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*Mustela erminea*

Evaluation Species

Weasel Family



**Description:** Weasels are small mammals with long slender bodies, long necks, and short legs. In this species, the head and body is 13 - 23 cm (5 - 9 in.) long, and the tail is 5 - 10 cm (2 - 4 in.) long. Males are larger than females. In summer, coloration is brown above and white below. The feet are white, and the tip of the tail is black. In winter, coloration is all white except the black tip on the tail. Compared to the long-tailed weasel, this species is smaller, has white feet, and has a shorter tail; may be difficult to distinguish species in winter.

**Diet:** Feeds primarily on mice. Also eats other small animals including birds, lizards, snakes, frogs, and insects. Will take prey several times its own weight.

**Habitat:** A variety of habitats including open woodlands, brushy areas, grasslands, wetlands, and agricultural areas, usually near water.

**Range:** Most of Canada and Alaska, south to New England and northern tier of U.S. states; in the west, south to central California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and northern New Mexico. In Nevada, occurs at higher elevations and may occur in the Spring Mountains.

**Comments:** Also called an ermine.

# WATCH LIST SPECIES

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<b>California leaf-nosed bat</b>	<i>Macrotus californicus</i>
<b>Spotted bat</b>	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>
<b>Allen's big-eared bat</b>	<i>Idionycteris phyllotis</i>
<b>Southwestern cave myotis</b>	<i>Myotis velifer brevis</i>
<b>Yuma myotis</b>	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>
<b>Western mastiff bat</b>	<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>
<b>Big free-tailed bat</b>	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>
<b>Spiny pocket mouse</b>	<i>Chaetodipus spinatus spinatus</i>
<b>Desert bighorn sheep</b>	<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>