



Mammals in Massachusetts

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	Didelphidae (New World Opossums)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Trichechidae (Manatees and Dugongs)	Accidental. Coastal Barnstable and Bristol counties, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2016
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Sciuridae (Tree Squirrels and Marmots)	Statewide. Recently introduced to Nantucket County.
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Sciuridae (Tree Squirrels and Marmots)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Sciuridae (Tree Squirrels and Marmots)	Historically from northeastern, central, and western Massachusetts. No records since 1968. Most historical records are unverified or erroneous. Listed as a species of greatest conservation need
Southern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	Sciuridae (Tree Squirrels and Marmots)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	Sciuridae (Tree Squirrels and Marmots)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	Sciuridae (Tree Squirrels and Marmots)	Statewide except Nantucket County.
American Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Castoridae (American Beaver)	Northeastern, central, and western Massachusetts. Occasional in southeastern Massachusetts.
Woodland Jumping Mouse	<i>Napaeozapus insignis</i>	Dipodidae (Jumping Mice)	Occurs west of a line from Mt. Watatic in western Middlesex County, through Mt. Wachusett in Worcester County, to the Holyoke Range in Hampshire/Hampden counties.
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Dipodidae (Jumping Mice)	Statewide.
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, and Lemmings)	Statewide. The vole of Muskeget Island is considered to be a subspecies of the Meadow Vole.

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Woodland Vole	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>	Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, and Lemmings)	Western, central, and northeastern Massachusetts. Records from the 3 southeastern mainland counties are suspicious until verified. Absent from Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Southern Red-backed Vole	<i>Myodes gapperi</i>	Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, and Lemmings)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Common Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, and Lemmings)	Statewide except Nantucket County.
Southern Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, and Lemmings)	Reported from Franklin, Hampshire, Plymouth, and Worcester counties. Probably more widespread than presently known. Listed as a species of special concern.
Allegheny Woodrat	<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, and Lemmings)	Extirpated; 1 specimen trapped in Berkshire County in 1958.
White-footed Deermouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, and Lemmings)	Statewide.
North American Deermouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Cricetidae (Mice, Voles, and Lemmings)	Known with certainty from Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire counties. Easily confused with the white-footed deermouse. Specimens outside the above range need verification.
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)	Introduced. Statewide except for Martha's Vineyard island, where it allegedly once occurred.
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)	Introduced. Statewide.
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)	Introduced, now eradicated; last records 1931 (Worcester County) and 1939 (Hampden County).
North American Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Erethizontidae (New World Porcupines)	Northeastern, central, and western Massachusetts. Records from Barnstable and Plymouth counties probably represent translocations.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	Leporidae (Hares and Rabbits)	Introduced, now eradicated; imported to Nantucket County on four occasions between 1889 and 1975. Several other short-lived introductions in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, and Plymouth counties between 1890s and 1940s failed.
Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Leporidae (Hares and Rabbits)	Probably statewide historically, but largely replaced by many introductions from out of state since 1891. Now statewide in local habitat patches, but status in Dukes, Nantucket, and Suffolk counties is unclear.
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Leporidae (Hares and Rabbits)	Introduced to Berkshire County prior to 1930s. Apparently eradicated by the 1930s. Allegations that these hares were released on Martha's Vineyard are based on a taxonomic misunderstanding.
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Leporidae (Hares and Rabbits)	Introduced between the 1920s and 1940s. Now eradicated. Many short-lived introductions of "San Juan rabbits" quickly failed. Last remaining feral populations existed on some Boston Harbor islands but disappeared by 2013.
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Leporidae (Hares and Rabbits)	Statewide. Introduced, primarily from the Midwest, between 1900 and 1940s, primarily <i>Sylvilagus floridanus mallurus</i> and <i>Sylvilagus floridanus alacer (mearnsi)</i> .
New England Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>	Leporidae (Hares and Rabbits)	Formerly statewide, but now restricted to parts of Barnstable, Berkshire, Hampden, Nantucket, and Plymouth counties (also possible on Martha's Vineyard). Extirpated from Dukes and Nantucket counties. Listed as a species of greatest conservation need.
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	Soricidae (Shrews)	Statewide.
Cinereus (Masked) Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Soricidae (Shrews)	Statewide.
Long-tailed Shrew	<i>Sorex dispar</i>	Soricidae (Shrews)	Berkshire County. Listed as a species of special concern.
Smoky Shrew	<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	Soricidae (Shrews)	Central and western Massachusetts.

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American Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Soricidae (Shrews)	Berkshire County (one specimen in 1991).
American Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Soricidae (Shrews)	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. Listed as a species of special concern.
Star-nosed Mole	<i>Condylura cristata</i>	Talpidae (Moles and Shrew-Moles)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Hairy-tailed Mole	<i>Parascalops breweri</i>	Talpidae (Moles and Shrew-Moles)	Northeastern, central, and western Massachusetts. Absent from the three southeastern mainland counties, and Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Eastern Mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>	Talpidae (Moles and Shrew-Moles)	Southern Connecticut River Valley; Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket and southern Plymouth counties.
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Statewide.
Eastern Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Migratory. May occur statewide.
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Migratory. May occur statewide.
Tricolored Bat	<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Statewide. Listed as endangered.
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Migratory. May occur statewide.
Eastern Small-footed Bat	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Berkshire, Hampden, and Middlesex counties. May be overlooked elsewhere. Listed as endangered.
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Statewide. Listed as endangered.
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Statewide. Listed as endangered in Massachusetts and threatened at the federal level.
Indiana Bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Vespertilionidae (Vesper Bats)	Last recorded in 1939 from Hampden county. Alleged records from Berkshire and Worcester counties lack credibility. Listed as endangered in Massachusetts and at the federal level.
Domestic Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	Felidae (Cats)	Statewide. Feral cats are often found in colonies subsidized by people.

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Canadian Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Felidae (Cats)	Extirpated; 13 records between 1820 and 1937; the five most credible from Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. Two records in 1991 were wandering lynx from a New York released. Listed federally as threatened.
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Felidae (Cats)	Northeastern, central, and western Massachusetts. Occasional records from southeastern Massachusetts.
Cougar (Mountain Lion)	<i>Puma concolor</i>	Felidae (Cats)	Extirpated; six records from 1680 to 1858; last record 1858 from Hampshire County. Almost all recent records are misidentifications or spurious. One confirmed scat (1997) and trail of tracks (2011), both in Franklin County.
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Canidae (Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves)	Statewide including Elizabeth Islands, but absent from Nantucket County and Martha's Vineyard island. Two live coyotes were confirmed on Martha's Vineyard in 2014 and 2019 but did not survive.
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Canidae (Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves)	Extirpated by 1840. A record from 1918 is undoubtedly an escaped captive. One record vagrant from Canada killed in Franklin County in 2007. Listed federally as endangered as <i>Canis lupus lycaon</i> . Endangered in Massachusetts by inclusion of the federal list.
Domestic Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	Canidae (Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves)	Statewide; now rarely feral although owned free-ranging dogs are somewhat common.
Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Canidae (Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
North American Red Fox	<i>Vulpes fulva</i>	Canidae (Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves)	Statewide including the Elizabeth islands, but absent from Nantucket County and Martha's Vineyard island.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
American Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Ursidae (Bears)	Western, central, and northeastern Massachusetts. Occasional dispersers into southeastern Massachusetts, including one male which crossed the Cape Cod Canal in 2012, travelled to Provincetown and back to Wellfleet before being captured and transported to central Massachusetts.
Hooded Seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Phocidae (Earless Seals)	Extremely rare in Massachusetts. Young-of-the-year are uncommon visitors from the far north. Adults are very rare. May occur in any coastal town.
Bearded Seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Phocidae (Earless Seals)	Extremely rare in Massachusetts. One adult female in Gloucester, Essex County in 2002.
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Phocidae (Earless Seals)	All coastal counties, but especially Barnstable and Nantucket where pups are born.
Harp Seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Phocidae (Earless Seals)	All coastal counties. Young-of-the-year visiting from the far north are fairly common, adults are rare.
Harbor Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Phocidae (Earless Seals)	All coastal counties. Year round.
Ringed Seal	<i>Pusa hispida</i>	Phocidae (Earless Seals)	Extremely rare in Massachusetts. Occasionally will enter Massachusetts waters from far north. Less than 10 records.
North American River Otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	Mustelidae (Weasels, Minks, Martens, and Otters)	Statewide except Nantucket and possibly Suffolk counties.
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Mustelidae (Weasels, Minks, Martens, and Otters)	Extirpated. One record from western Massachusetts prior to 1835.
American Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	Mustelidae (Weasels, Minks, Martens, and Otters)	Extirpated. Occurred in western Massachusetts, east to central and northern Worcester County. Last record, 1880. One record in 1992 was a probable disperser from a Vermont release; another in 1993 was a probable escape from a fur farm.

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Fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	Mustelidae (Weasels, Minks, Martens, and Otters)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Mustelidae (Weasels, Minks, Martens, and Otters)	Possibly statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties, but less common than the long-tailed weasel and records in southeastern Massachusetts require verification.
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Mustelidae (Weasels, Minks, Martens, and Otters)	Statewide except Dukes and Nantucket counties.
American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Mustelidae (Weasels, Minks, Martens, and Otters)	Statewide except Nantucket County. Recently rediscovered on Martha's Vineyard.
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Mephitidae (Skunks)	Statewide except Nantucket County. Recently re-introduced on Martha's Vineyard.
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Procyonidae (Raccoons, Coatis, Ringtails)	Statewide except Nantucket County.
Moose	<i>Alces americanus</i>	Cervidae (Deer, Elk, and Moose)	Resident in northeastern, central, and western Massachusetts. Vagrants may occur in southeastern Massachusetts.
Elk	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Cervidae (Deer, Elk, and Moose)	Extirpated. The sole record of live elk was from Worcester County in 1732.
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Cervidae (Deer, Elk, and Moose)	Statewide.
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	Cervidae (Deer, Elk, and Moose)	Introduced to Dukes County in 1932, 1938 and 1968. Last reported in mid-1970s; now eradicated.
North Atlantic Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Balaenidae (Right and Bowhead Whales)	Particularly frequent in Cape Cod Bay and off Race Point, Provincetown in late winter through spring. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and at the federal level.
Bowhead Whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Balaenidae (Right and Bowhead Whales)	One individual seen in Cape Cod Bay feeding with Northern Right Whales in March 2012 and April 2014. Listed as endangered at the federal level.
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Balaenopteridae (Rorqual Whales)	Frequently seen off the coast of Essex, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties in spring through mid-fall.

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Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Balaenopteridae (Rorqual Whales)	Seen infrequently off the coast of Essex and Barnstable counties in spring through fall of some years. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and at the federal level.
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Balaenopteridae (Rorqual Whales)	Rarely seen off Essex and Barnstable counties in summer through fall. Rarely ventures onto the continental shelf. Records in state waters are questionable. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and at the federal level.
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Balaenopteridae (Rorqual Whales)	Seen mainly off the coast of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Barnstable counties in spring through late summer. Listed as endangered in both Massachusetts and at the federal level.
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Balaenopteridae (Rorqual Whales)	The most common large whale along the coast, sometimes seen close to shore. Enters local feeding grounds in spring through fall. Listed as endangered.
Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Rarely seen near shore, mainly seen off the coast of Essex, Barnstable, and Nantucket counties, on Stellwagon Bank and Jeffries Ledge, and in Cape Cod Bay July through December.
Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Rarely seen, typically found farther south. Strandings in 1980, 2011, and 2019 in Plymouth, Barnstable, and Dukes counties.
Long-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Rarely seen near shore, mainly off the coast of Essex, Barnstable, and Nantucket counties, or in Cape Cod Bay July through December.
Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Seen mainly off the coast of Essex, Barnstable, and Nantucket counties. Typically, in deep water along the edge of the continental shelf.
Atlantic White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Rarely seen near shore, mainly seen off the coast of Essex, Barnstable, and Nantucket counties, on Stellwagon Bank and Jeffries Ledge, and sometimes in Cape Cod Bay.

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White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Typically found farther north. Less than 30 records, mainly off the coast of Essex and Barnstable counties.
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Typically found farther north. About 12 records, including five strandings, mostly in Barnstable, Nantucket, and Dukes counties.
False Killer Whale	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Two strandings; One in Provincetown before 1950, and the other in Barnstable in August 1997. Typically, farther south in deep water along the edge of the continental shelf.
Pantropical Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	One group of 3-5 stranded multiple time in Suffolk, Norfolk, and Barnstable counties in September 1979. Typically, farther south in deep water along the edge of the continental shelf.
Atlantic Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella frontalis</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	One juvenile stranded in Barnstable County in 2003. A possible second animal had stranded earlier on Martha's Vineyard. Typically, in deep water along the edge of the continental shelf.
Striped Dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	Rarely seen, mainly off the coast of Essex, Barnstable, and Nantucket counties. Rarely ventures onto the continental shelf. Typically, in deep water along the edge of the continental shelf.
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Delphinidae (Dolphins and Pilot Whales)	About 75 records, nearly all of which represent the large offshore stock. Two, seen many times in Plymouth Harbor, Barnstable Harbor, and Cape Cod Bay (1990-1992) may have been from the southern coastal stock. Typically, in deep water along the edge of the continental shelf.
Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Monodontidae (Belugas and Narwhals)	Typically found in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, Canada and north. About 16 records, including 6 strandings.
Harbor Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Phocoenidae (Porpoises)	May be seen anywhere along the coast, often near shore.

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Pygmy Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	Physeteridae (Sperm and Pygmy Sperm Whales)	Typically, in deep water at the edge of the continental shelf, and beyond. Just over 30 strandings, mainly in Essex, Barnstable, and Nantucket counties.
Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia sima</i>	Physeteridae (Sperm and Pygmy Sperm Whales)	Typically found south of Massachusetts in deep water at the edge of the continental shelf, and beyond. Three strandings in 1991, 2009, and 2010.
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter catodon</i>	Physeteridae (Sperm and Pygmy Sperm Whales)	Typically, in deep water at the edge of the continental shelf, and beyond. At least 12 strandings. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and at the federal level.
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Ziphiidae (Beaked Whales)	Typically found north of Massachusetts in deep water at the edge of the continental shelf, and beyond. Three specimens from two strandings in 1869 and 1923 (2).
Sowerby's Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	Ziphiidae (Beaked Whales)	Typically, in deep water at the edge of the continental shelf, and beyond. Five stranding records.
Blainville's Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>	Ziphiidae (Beaked Whales)	Typically, in deep water at the edge of the continental shelf, and beyond. Two stranding records from 1898 and 1930.
Gervais' Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i>	Ziphiidae (Beaked Whales)	Typically, in deep water at the edge of the continental shelf, and beyond. Two strandings in 1997 and 2020.
Cuvier's Beaked Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Ziphiidae (Beaked Whales)	Typically, in deep water at the edge of the continental shelf, and beyond. Six stranding records

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