

**Checklist of  
Mammals  
of  
Thunder Bay District**



*Thunder Bay Field Naturalists*

Revised July 2018

## Introduction

The 2018 edition of the Checklist of the Mammals of Thunder Bay District, Ontario, represents a significant update since the last Thunder Bay Field Naturalists (TBFN) mammal checklist by Keith Denis in 1978. In particular, there have been changes in nomenclature due to taxonomic revisions at the species, genus and family levels. Five new species have also been confirmed in the district since 1978 (American Badger, Cougar, Gray Fox, Wolverine and Virginia Opossum), and there have been changes in the at-risk status of a number of species.

The *Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario* (Dobbyn 1994), *The Natural History of Canadian Mammals* (Naughton 2012), and two volumes of *Handbook of Canadian Mammals* (van Zyll de Jong 1983, 1985) were used to update species' status. Increased use of acoustic monitoring and several small mammal trapping projects in the district (e.g., McLaren et al. 2011) have improved our knowledge about the distribution of bats, rodents, and shrews. Fur harvest and aerial survey data were used to update status of furbearers and ungulates respectively. Notes on any significant changes to the taxonomy or nomenclature of each species, as well as their distribution and abundance within the Thunder Bay District are provided.

The geographical area referred to as Thunder Bay District in this checklist is the official judicial District of Thunder Bay (Figure 1). It extends from the eastern border of Quetico Provincial Park north to the Albany River system, and east to White River and Michipicoten and Caribou islands in Lake Superior.

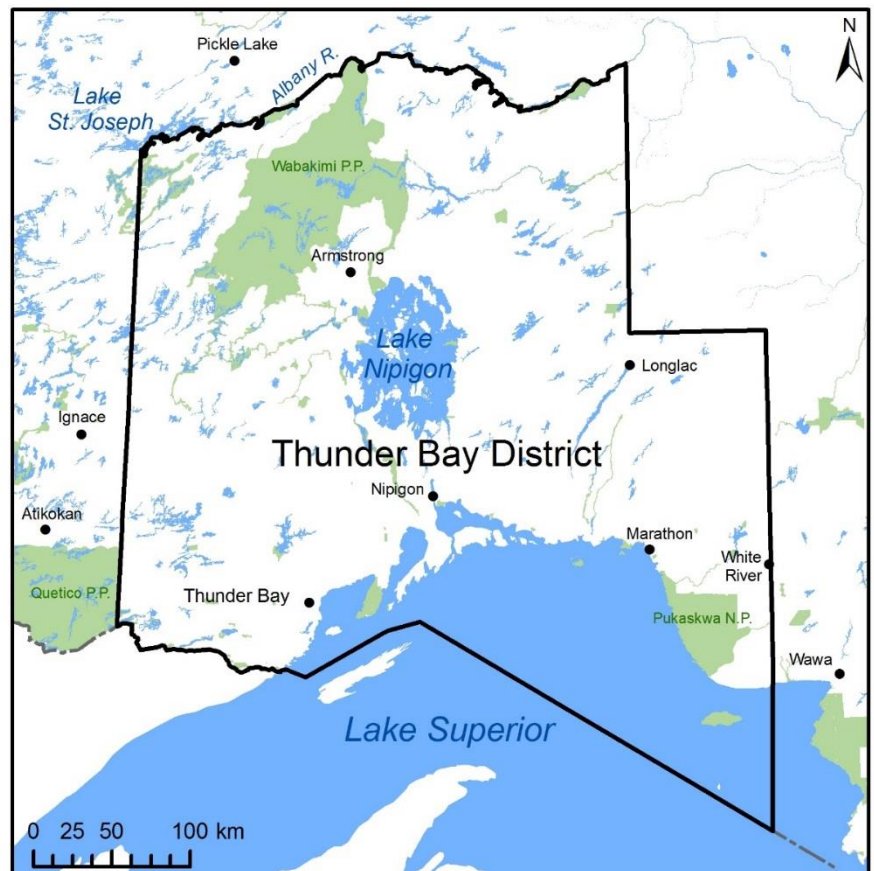


Figure 1. Judicial District of Thunder Bay

The main checklist includes 56 native or introduced species that are known to have occurred in the District. An appendix lists 6 additional species that have occurred in the District accidentally or for which the status is considered uncertain. Feral animals are not included in the checklist.

This edition of the checklist follows the nomenclature used by the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF; accessed April 18, 2018). The primary common name is that used by NHIC, with additional common names from Baker et al. (2003) and Naughton (2012). The checklist also includes status under Canada's *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and Ontario's *Endangered Species Act* (ESA), current as of April 15, 2018.

The annotation for each species includes the species' abundance (common, uncommon or rare; extra-limital; introduced; extirpated) and distribution (widespread, scattered, restricted) within the Thunder Bay District, as well as notes on habitat, ecology, and taxonomy where relevant.

An updated bibliography of useful references and identification guides for the mammals of Thunder Bay District and adjacent areas is provided.

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Common Name	Scientific Name	TBFN District Notes
<b>ORDER LAGOMORPHA - Pikas, Hares, and Rabbits (2 spp.)</b>		
<b>Family Leporidae - Hares and Rabbits</b>		
Snowshoe Hare (Varying Hare)	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Common. Widespread. Abundance fluctuates widely in response to intrinsic population cycles approximately every 10 years, subsequently affecting the populations of predators such as Canada Lynx (Krebs et al. 2001).
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Introduced. Extirpated. During 1942-45, at least 68 individuals of this non-native species were introduced from southern Ontario (Meaford) into the Thunder Bay area (Allin 1950). The last confirmed record was in 1949.
<b>ORDER SORICOMORPHA – Insectivores (7 spp.)</b>		
<b>Family Soricidae - Shrews</b>		
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	Common. Widespread. In a range of habitats (including urban areas) across most of the District except the more northerly parts,. Represented 4% of all small mammal captures near in mixedwoods and cutovers near Fallingsnow Lake, and 13% of all shrew captures (McLaren et al. 2011).
Arctic Shrew (Black-backed Shrew, Saddle-backed Shrew)	<i>Sorex arcticus</i>	Uncommon. Widespread. The first record of this species in the province was likely collected at Peninsula Harbour in 1896. It occurs in a variety of habitats, but primarily wetlands (conifer swamps, bogs, marshes and shorelines). Represented about 3% of all small mammal captures near Fallingsnow Lake, and 9% of all shrew captures (McLaren et al. 2011).
Masked Shrew (Cinereus Shrew)	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Common. Widespread. Described as “excessively abundant” when collected by G.S. Miller at Peninsula Harbour (Marathon) in 1896. Masked and Pygmy shrews (not distinguished) represented almost 25% of all small mammal captures near Fallingsnow Lake, and 78% of all shrew captures (McLaren et al. 2011).
Smoky Shrew	<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	Rare. Restricted. Known from only two older records at Schreiber and Thunder Bay (van Zyll de Jong 1983). First documented in extreme northeastern Minnesota in 1991 (Jannett and Oehlenschlager 1994) and in Lake County in 2003 (MN DNR 218), suggesting this predominately eastern species may be slowly expanding its range westward (deVost 1964). Typically found in forests with deep leaf-mould cover.
Pygmy Shrew (American Pygmy Shrew)	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Rare. Possibly widespread in the District and occurring throughout Ontario and boreal North America. Specimens from Eaglehead Lake, MacDiarmid, and Peninsula Harbour. Apparently rare but very difficult to distinguish from Masked Shrew. It can be found in a variety of habitats but prefers mesic conditions. Formerly known as <i>Microsorex hoyi</i> .
Water Shrew (North American Water Shrew)	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Uncommon. Widespread. Typically associated with waterbodies and wetlands, although it may wander 50+ m from water. Preferred habitat appears to be cold, fast-running creeks bordered by rocks, woody debris, and overhanging banks. It is an excellent swimmer and is sometimes caught in minnow traps or recovered from the stomachs of fish (Foster pers. obs.). Considered by some (e.g., Bradley et al. 2014; Hope et al. 2014) as Eastern Water Shrew ( <i>Sorex albibarbis</i> ).
<b>Family Talpidae - Moles</b>		
Star-nosed Mole	<i>Condylura cristata</i>	Common. Widespread. Active year-round, often under the snow in winter, and is often gregarious and perhaps even colonial. Prefers wet habitats such as swamps and wet meadows. It is also an active swimmer and is occasionally caught in minnow traps.
<b>ORDER CHIROPTERA – Bats (6 spp.)</b>		
<b>Family Vespertilionidae – Vesper or Evening Bats</b>		
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Common. Apparently widespread, but perhaps near the northern limit of its Ontario distribution. Recent (2015 - 2017) records from bat recorders at Thunder Bay, Marathon, and Little Pigeon Bay (Foster and Harris unpubl. data).



		A habitat generalist, the Big Brown Bat hibernates singly or in small groups, sometimes in the same hibernacula as Little Brown and Northern Myotis such as Cavern Lake (Allin 1942; Tracey 1972), but also in buildings. Apparently less susceptible to White-nose Syndrome than <i>Myotis</i> species, perhaps due to differences in hibernacula preferences. Maternity colonies of up to 100 individuals may use buildings in the summer, although few if any have been documented in the District.
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Distribution and abundance poorly known. Detected in the southern portion of the District (e.g., White River, Marathon area) with acoustic monitoring (Foster and Harris pers. obs.). Elsewhere in its range, summer roost sites are found in tree cavities or under loose bark, and maternity colonies of 10-30 females have been found in tree cavities of tall, large diameter trees. Silver-haired Bats (along with Eastern Red and Hoary bats) are not affected by White-nose Syndrome since they migrate south out of the District and usually winter in trees rather than in mines or caves.
Eastern Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Distribution and abundance poorly known. This solitary, tree-roosting species prefers mixed hardwood forest. Rarely seen except when foraging, it has been detected with acoustic monitoring in the southern portion of the District (e.g., Sibley Peninsula, Thunder Bay, Little Pigeon Bay, Marathon area 2014-2017) (Foster and Harris pers. obs.; Drake pers. comm.). Fall migrants are sometime caught in mist nets at the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory (Woodcock, pers. comm.). Eastern Red Bats are particularly vulnerable to wind turbines (Frick et al. 2017).
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Distribution and abundance poorly known. May be relatively widespread and common in the District based on 2015 – 2017 acoustic monitoring in Marathon, White River, and Geraldton. Typically roost alone (or with pups) high in trees concealed by leaves, but there are no District breeding records. Fall migrants are sometime caught in mist nets at the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory (Woodcock pers. comm.). Hoary Bats are particularly vulnerable to wind turbines and wind energy development may pose a major threat to this migratory bat species (Frick et al. 2017).
Little Brown Myotis (Little Brown Bat)	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Uncommon. Widespread. Perhaps our most common bat historically (Fenton 1970). Recent (2015 - 2017) records from bat recorders at Thunder Bay, Geraldton, and Little Pigeon Bay (Foster and Harris pers. obs.). Historical hibernacula at the Jackfish and Schreiber mines supported over 600 individuals in the late 1960s (Fenton 1970). This species has recently undergone a catastrophic decline due to White-nose Syndrome (WNS), a disease resulting from a fungus accidentally introduced into eastern North America circa 2006. WNS affects hibernating bats and the Little Brown Myotis is particularly susceptible, with observed mortality rates of over 90%. WNS was first detected in Thunder Bay District in 2013-2014 (OMNRF 2015), and regional populations of Little Brown Myotis are rapidly dropping in monitored hibernacula (e.g., Cavern Lake cave, various mines and adits). For example, overwintering individuals declined from 45 in 2015 to 0 in 2017 at a mine adit at Mink Mountain (Rosenthal pers. comm.). Usually found near forests and foraging over water, and often uses buildings for maternity colonies (Dymond 1929). Listed as <i>Endangered</i> , both federally and provincially.
Northern Myotis (Northern Long-eared Bat)	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Uncommon. Apparently widespread, but few data are available. Based on counts from shared hibernacula, apparently less abundant than Little Brown Myotis. Recent (2015 - 2017) records from bat recorders at White River and Geraldton (Foster and Harris pers. obs.). Very susceptible to White-nose Syndrome and declining rapidly. Usually found near forests and foraging over water, this species is thought to use mainly dead trees and occasionally human structures for maternity colonies. Within the District, some individuals roost diurnally beneath rocks (Foster pers. obs.). Listed as <i>Endangered</i> , both federally and provincially. In older works (e.g., Denis 1978), it was sometimes referred to as Keen's Myotis ( <i>Myotis keenii septentrionalis</i> ); <i>M. keenii</i> is now considered a distinct, western species.
<b>ORDER CARNIVORA – Carnivores (17 spp.)</b>		
<b>Family Canidae - Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves</b>		
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Uncommon. Widespread, but primarily found in the southern portion of the District in agricultural and urban areas. Believed to have first expanded into the District in the late 1800s, reaching the Sibley Peninsula in about 1900 (Denis

		1959).
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Common. Widespread. <i>Canis</i> species frequently interbreed and hybridize, and the relationships among taxa are complex. The Gray Wolf is common and widespread across the District. The Great Lakes Wolf ( <i>Canis lupus x lycaon</i> hybrid) has been confirmed in the southern portion of the District based on genetic samples (Beacon Environmental Limited and Wildlife 2000 Consulting 2018). As currently understood, the Eastern Wolf ( <i>Canis</i> sp. var. <i>lycaon</i> ) (COSEWIC 2015) also described as the Algonquin Wolf ( <i>Canis</i> sp.) (COSSARO 2016) does not occur in the District.
Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Rare. Restricted. Recent sightings since 2010 in the southern portion of the District from the U.S. border to Dorion. Prior to this there were records near Shebandowan Lake (1982) and Dog Lake (1991). Breeding may be taking place in the Thunder Bay area, based on photos of a lactating female in 2015 (Foster 2015). Gray Fox was absent from the 1959 and 1978 District checklists. Listed as Threatened both provincially and federally.
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Common. Widespread. A number of colour phases present, with red, cross and “silver” (black) being the most common. Numerous silver and cross foxes escaped from fur farms between 1913 and 1942 (Denis 1959).
<b>Family Felidae - Cats</b>		
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Common. Widespread. Populations fluctuate in response to Snowshoe Hare populations on a roughly ten-year cycle (Krebs et al. 2001).
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Uncommon. Scattered. Numbers trapped have increased in the southern portion of the District since 2010, primarily from Thunder Bay south to the U.S. border. A few cases of interbreeding with Canada Lynx have been documented from northeastern Minnesota (Homyack et al. 2008) but there is no evidence of introgression in Ontario (Koen et al 2014). Deep snow is believed to be one factor limiting the northern distribution of this species (Reed et al. 2017).
Cougar (Mountain Lion, Puma)	<i>Puma concolor</i>	Rare. There has been a long history of reported Cougar sightings within the District since the 1950s, but solid evidence has been lacking. A male Cougar carcass was found west of Thunder Bay in March 2017. Genetic analysis indicated an assignment score of 94.6 out of 100 indicating this specimen was most closely related to individuals from the Black Hills area of South Dakota/Wyoming and NW Nebraska (OMNRF unpubl. data). Two other credible Thunder Bay District records along the north shore of Lake Superior were based on scat and DNA and a sighting by a professional biologist (Rosatte 2011). There is no evidence of a resident breeding population in Ontario or Minnesota. Listed provincially as Endangered.
<b>Family Mephitidae - Skunks</b>		
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Common. Widespread, but most abundant in the southern portion of the District, particularly in urban and agricultural areas. Formerly (e.g., Denis 1978) considered a member of the Mustelidae.
<b>Family Mustelidae - Weasels, Otters, and Badgers</b>		
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Uncommon. Scattered in the northern portion of the District. Aerial track surveys by OMNRF and others (e.g., Foster et al. 2009), indicate wolverine activity along the northern boundary of the District. There have been 15 wolverines trapped and two railway kills within the District since 1995. The majority of the evidence is from the northern half of the District, although there have been two trapped (1996 and 2018) and two photographed (2017) in the southern half of the District. Both males and females have been trapped in the north half of the District. Denis (1959) reported only one historical record, from Loon Lake. Provincially listed as Threatened and federally as Special Concern (Western Population).
North American River Otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	Common. Widespread. Excellent swimmers that feed primarily upon aquatic prey, their distribution is associated with aquatic habitats. Formerly <i>Lutra canadensis</i> .
American Marten (American Pine Marten)	<i>Martes americana</i>	Common. Widespread. Partly arboreal, this mustelid occurs primarily in mature coniferous and coniferous-dominated mixedwood forests. Marten numbers may be limited in areas of higher Fisher density (Krohn et al. 1995).

Ermine (Short-tailed Weasel)	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Common. Widespread throughout the District in a variety of habitats. Weasel species are lumped together in provincial fur harvest data, so reports are generally from small mammal live-trapping studies. Visual identification between Ermine and Long-tailed Weasel can be challenging and confirmation of specimens is best done using various skeletal measurements or genetic means (Elsasser and Parker 2008).
American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Common. Widespread, typically associated with riparian areas and aquatic habitats. Formerly <i>Mustela vison</i> .
Fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	Common. Widespread, generally distributed in the southern and western portions of the District. Numbers are generally lower north of Lake Superior. Fisher populations appear to be limited by deep snow depths (Krohn et al. 1995). In the 1950s and 1960s Fisher were transplanted to several areas in Ontario to augment and expand the population. Formerly <i>Martes pennanti</i> .
American Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Extra-limital. A single road-killed specimen was found on Highway 61 near the U.S. border in November 2000. The nearest known breeding population is in north-central Minnesota. No other confirmed records exist for the District, although there are records from Rainy River District to the west. The badger was absent from the District checklists in 1959 and 1978. Listed as Endangered provincially, and Special Concern nationally (for <i>T. t. taxus</i> ).
<b>Family Procyonidae - Raccoons, Ringtails, and Coatis</b>		
Northern Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Uncommon. Restricted. Primarily in the southwestern part of the District. Becoming more abundant and widespread within the City of Thunder Bay and adjacent semirural and agricultural landscapes over the past two decades. Occasional records dating back to 1896 are reported in Denis (1959). The recent expansion of Northern Raccoon range appears to be related to a period of winters with less snow and warmer temperatures (Voigt et al. 2000).
<b>Family Ursidae - Bears</b>		
American Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Common. Widespread. More abundant (25 bears/100 km <sup>2</sup> ) in the southwestern portion of the District than in the east and north (20 bears/100 km <sup>2</sup> ) (OMNR 2014).
<b>ORDER ARTIODACTYLA - Even-toed Ungulates (4 spp.)</b>		
<b>Family Cervidae - Deer</b>		
Moose	<i>Alces americanus</i>	Common. Widespread, although numbers have declined in the past decade. Historically most common in the western half of the District and lower along the northeastern shore of Lake Superior. Moose in neighbouring areas of Minnesota have also declined dramatically, although there are indications that the Minnesota population may be stabilizing. Reasons for the recent declines are poorly understood, but predation (particularly of calves), hunting, climate change, parasites (e.g., winter tick, meningeal worm), and habitat availability are thought to be important. Considered by some (e.g., Hundertmark 2016) to be conspecific with European Elk ( <i>Alces alces</i> ).
Elk (Wapiti, North American Elk)	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Extirpated from the District and historical status is poorly known. An antler from an apparently native elk was found in the Northern Lights Lake area (Denis 1959), and species may have occurred as far east as Sibley Peninsula (OMNR 2010). Elk were introduced into the Nipigon-Onaman Game Preserve in 1933 and St. Ignace Island in 1934 (Denis 1959), although there is no evidence of elk being either place historically. Concerns about possible disease transmission led to the eradication of elk across Ontario, and by 1955 there were no longer records of elk in the Nipigon-Onaman area (Hamr et al. 2016). Elk are currently considered part of the Red Deer complex, but are treated by some as a separate species, <i>C. canadensis</i> .
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Common. Widespread across the southern portion of the District, and occasionally seen as far north as Armstrong. Absent in northwestern Ontario until the late 1800s, arriving across the Rainy River from Minnesota. Abundance and northern range limit appear to fluctuate in response to winter severity (i.e., winter duration, low temperatures, and snow depth) (Voigt et al. 2000). Population numbers appear to have declined from recent peaks in the early 2000s but remain high in some urban areas such as Thunder Bay.

Woodland Caribou (Caribou, Boreal population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Uncommon. Scattered in the northern portion of the District, with the most stable southern populations centred on the islands of Lake Nipigon. Originally occurred across the entire District, and at one time was the dominant cervid in the region. Populations ranged as far south as the Lake Superior coast, Lake Superior islands (including Isle Royale), and northern Minnesota. Caribou persisted on the Black Bay and Sibley peninsulas until the 1970s but they are now very rare on the Lake Superior north shore, and a resident population is no longer present on the Lake Superior shore within the District (OMNRF 2018). Boreal Caribou persist on some of the larger Lake Superior islands (i.e., Slate Is., Michipicoten I.) and were observed regularly in Pukaskwa National Park up until 2012. Listed as Threatened federally and provincially.
<b>ORDER RODENTIA – Rodents (20 spp.)</b>		
<b>Family Castoridae - Beavers</b>		
Beaver (North American Beaver)	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Common. Widespread in forested watersheds throughout the District. During the peak of the fur trade trapping pressure was so high that populations were at one time severely reduced, but populations are now recovered.
<b>Family Cricetidae - New World Mice, Rats, and Voles</b>		
Rock Vole (Yellow-nosed Vole)	<i>Microtus chrotorrhinus</i>	Rare. Scattered. Poorly known, but infrequently trapped. Prefers open rocky forests and talus slopes; only 5 of 7896 (0.06%) small mammals trapped in mixedwood forest near Fallingsnow Lake were Rock Voles (McLaren et al. 2011). Thunder Bay District is near the western and northern edge of its range, with most District records on the north shore of Lake Superior (Saunders 1922; Denis 1955).
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Common. Widespread, mostly in meadows, marshes, and open forests. Subspecies <i>M.p. drummondii</i> occurs across most of the District with <i>M.p. enixus</i> extending north into the Marathon and White River area (Banfield 1974).
Southern Red-backed Vole	<i>Myodes gapperi</i>	Common. Widespread, especially in moist forest with well-developed leaf litter. Along with Deer Mouse, among the most abundant mammals in the District (e.g., McLaren et al. 2011). A small mammal trapline on an island in Sauerbrei Lake found only this species (Oakes 1953). Formerly known as <i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i> .
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Uncommon. Widespread in marshes and shallow lakes and rivers.
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Common. Widespread in a wide range of habitats. Among the most abundant mammals in the District (e.g., McLaren et al. 2011) although populations fluctuate widely. White-footed Mouse ( <i>P. leucopus</i> ) occurs near Duluth, MN (about 300 km southwest of Thunder Bay District) (Hazard 1982) but is not confirmed from the District.
Eastern Heather Vole	<i>Phenacomys ungava</i>	Uncommon. Widespread in a variety of forested habitats. Infrequently trapped (only 4 animals among 7896 (0.05%) small mammal captures near Fallingsnow Lake; McLaren et al. 2011) but characteristic piles of small twig cuttings can be found in mixed forest habitats in the District (Harris pers. obs.). Formerly considered a subspecies of <i>Phenacomys intermedius</i> (now Western Heather Vole).
Southern Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	Uncommon. Scattered in bogs, fens, and other wet, open habitats. Infrequently seen or trapped but their characteristic bright green pellets and piles of grass and sedge cuttings can be found in suitable habitat (Harris pers. obs.). Northern Bog Lemming ( <i>S. borealis</i> ) occurs in the Lake of the Woods area, but is not known from Thunder Bay District.
<b>Family Dipodidae - Jumping Mice</b>		
Woodland Jumping Mouse	<i>Napaeozapus insignis</i>	Common. Widespread, with records along the north shore of Lake Superior and north to Nakina. Thunder Bay District appears to represent the northern limit of its range in northwestern Ontario. Population numbers and trends in the District poorly known. Represented only 0.4% of all small mammal captures in mixedwood forest and cutover near Fallingsnow Lake (McLaren et al. 2011). Individuals from Thunder Bay District (subspecies <i>N. i. abictorum</i> ) are larger

		than other populations of the subspecies (Wrigley 1972).
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Uncommon. Widespread. Population numbers and trends in the District poorly known. Represented only 0.05% of all small mammal captures in mixedwoods and cutovers near Fallingsnow Lake (McLaren et al. 2011).
<b>Family Erethizontidae - New World Porcupines</b>		
Porcupine (North American Porcupine)	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Common. Widespread, typically associated with coniferous forests. Fisher are a major predator, and Porcupine populations appear to vary in response to both Fisher populations (Earle and Kramm 1982) and winter snow depths (Voigt et al. 2000). Population numbers in Thunder Bay District appear to be reduced somewhat from peaks in the 1980s and 1990s, potentially because of an apparent increase in populations of Fisher.
<b>Family Muridae - Old World Mice and Rats</b>		
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Introduced. Common. Widespread well-established non-native species found in urban areas across the southern part of the District.
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Introduced. Common. Well established since at least the late 1800s (Denis 1959) but restricted to urban and agricultural areas. Norway Rats have long been concentrated near Thunder Bay grain elevators, but more recently (2016-2017) have been increasing in some residential areas. This area encompasses the northern limit of their range in Ontario.
<b>Family Myocastoridae - Coypus</b>		
Nutria (Coypu)	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	Introduced. Extirpated. Several individuals of this South American rodent were trapped in the Whitefish River in 1953 and 1955. Their origin is unknown but may have spread from feral populations in Minnesota (Allin 1955) or escaped from a local fur farm (Denis 1959). They apparently only persisted in the wild for several years (Allin 1955).
<b>Family Sciuridae - Squirrels</b>		
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Common. Widespread in forested habitats and relatively abundant based on trapper observations (commonly caught in American Marten boxes). Rarely observed, except at bird feeders, due to its nocturnal habits.
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	<i>Marmota monax</i>	Common. Widespread. Historically uncommon in forests before European settlement, the Woodchuck has benefited from forest clearing and agriculture. Apparently most abundant in the southern portion of the District, especially farm fields, rural properties, and urban green spaces. Woodchucks are also found along the verges of roads, railways, and pipelines throughout the District, as well as natural clearings.
Least Chipmunk	<i>Neotamias minimus</i>	Common. Widespread. Typically in less productive habitats such as dry conifer forests, sandy cutovers, and rocky areas compared to the larger, more aggressive Eastern Chipmunk. Formerly <i>Eutamias minimus</i> , and referred to as <i>Tamias minimus</i> by some (e.g., Bradley et al. 2014).
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Common. Restricted to urban areas. First recorded from Port Arthur in 1896, the Eastern Gray Squirrel likely arrived vial rail (Denis 1959), although possibly supplemented by deliberate introductions in the 1980s (Dyke. pers. comm.). Formerly local within Thunder Bay, this species has expanded in the last decade or so and replaced the Red Squirrel in most urban areas of the city. Also reported from Silver Islet and Nipigon, but winter survival may be dependent on access to bird feeders. Both gray and black phases of this species are common.
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	Common. Widespread, particularly in productive forested habitat, but can also be found in parks and urban areas. This species reaches its northern range limit in the District.
Red Squirrel (North American Red Squirrel)	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Common. Widespread in forested habitats, especially mature conifer stands with abundant pine and spruce cones. Often common at bird feeders in urban areas, where not displaced by the Eastern Gray Squirrel.

**Appendix. Species that have occurred in the District accidentally, and species for which the status is unconfirmed.**

Common Name	Scientific Name	TBFN District Notes
<b>ORDER DIDELPHIMORPHA - Opossum and Allies</b>		
<b>Family Didelphidae - Opossums</b>		
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	Accidental. A single individual appeared in Lake Helen First Nation in January 2012. It apparently lived under a heated garage and was observed for at least 2 months, feeding on apple slices and bread left for it daily. This animal was probably a stowaway on a train or vehicle from more southern climes.
<b>ORDER CHIROPTERA – Bats</b>		
<b>Family Vespertilionidae – Vesper or Evening Bats</b>		
Small-footed Myotis	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Unconfirmed. Although a 2012 vocalization from a 2012 acoustic surveys in the Nipigon area was ascribed to this species (Dykeman (2018), supporting details are unavailable. No individuals of this non-migratory bat have been observed in the District (e.g., during hibernacula searches).
Tricoloured Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Unconfirmed. Although four vocalizations from 2012-2016 acoustic surveys in the Nipigon area were ascribed to this species (Dykeman 2018), supporting details are unavailable. No individuals of this non-migratory bat have been observed in the District (e.g., during hibernacula searches).
<b>ORDER CARNIVORA – Carnivores</b>		
<b>Family Mustelidae – Weasels, Otters, and Badgers</b>		
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Unconfirmed. If present, presumed to be rare and restricted to the Minnesota border area. Included on previous District checklists (Denis 1959, 1978) based on two sight records from Sauerbrei Lake and Hardwick Township (Thunder Bay). However, this species is difficult to reliably differentiate from Ermine without measurement of tail/body lengths, cranial features, or tail vertebrae counts (Elsasser and Parker 2008). Dobbyn (1984) includes two 1992 trapper records and one based on a “distinctive part” from near the U.S. border, and there is a specimen record from Minnesota immediately south of Quetico (Hazard 1992). Records for Pukaskwa National Park (Dobbyn 1994) were from winter tracks and are likely those of Ermine.
Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Unconfirmed. Although considered widespread in the District by Denis (1959), Banfield (1974), Naughton (2012), Novak et al. (1987) and others, there are no confirmed specimens or documented sightings. . Specimens documented in Rainy River (to the west) and Algoma (to the east) districts. An individual was detected by an OMNRF camera trap Algoma District in 2017, and subsequently verified by the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), approximately 50 km west of the District boundary. This is the smallest carnivore species. Formerly <i>M. rixosa</i> .
<b>ORDER RODENTIA – Rodents</b>		
<b>Family Sciuridae - Squirrels</b>		
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	<i>Ictidomys tridecemlineatus</i>	Accidental. A single individual was photographed in July 1959 at Sleeping Giant (Sibley) Provincial Park and was subsequently seen several times that summer but not thereafter (Peterson 1966; Cuddy and Norman 1971). It was most likely a stowaway in a park visitor’s vehicle or trailer from its native range in the midwestern U.S. and western North America.