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CHANGES IN THE NOMENCLATURE OF
MICHIGAN MAMMALS

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SINCE the publication of Dice's *Manual of the Recent Wild Mammals of Michigan* (1927) there have been a number of changes in the nomenclature. These result from revisionary studies of certain groups and critical analyses of additional materials that have become available within the past few years. Other alterations are being proposed herewith. It seems advisable to record these technical changes in advance of the appearance of a new work on Michigan mammals so that the revised nomenclature may be used without comment in the more popular treatise.

Sorex cinereus lesueurii Duvernoy
Masked Shrew

Sorex cinereus cinereus (part).

Bole and Moulthrop (1942: 90-91) recently revived the name *lesueurii* for a race of shrews characterized by extremely dark coloration and small size, especially shorter tails on the average than those found in *cinereus*. Southern Michigan specimens from Washtenaw, Livingston, Jackson, and Ingham counties are distinctly darker, more richly colored, than are specimens from farther north in the state. One specimen, in summer pelage, from Jackson County is darker than are specimens in comparable pelage from Knox County, Indiana. The

southern Michigan specimens have grayish rather than brown underparts as in the Indiana specimens. Five specimens from Winneshiek, Winnebago, and Hancock counties, Iowa, are also referable to this race. Michigan specimens are not typical *lesueurii*, but are best referred to that race. They do not possess the characters of *ohionensis* as given by Bole and Moulthrop (1942: 89-90). The range of *lesueurii*, as now known, is northwestern Ohio, southern Michigan, Indiana, northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and northeastern Iowa.

Blarina brevicauda kirtlandi Bole and Moulthrop
Short-tailed Shrew

Blarina brevicauda talpoides (part).

In a preliminary revision of the genus *Blarina*, Bole and Moulthrop (1942: 99) assigned the name *kirtlandi* to a newly described race and included all of Michigan in its range.

Myotis keenii septentrionalis Trouessart
Keen Bat

Myotis subulatus subulatus (part, of authors).

Miller and Allen (1928: 105) showed that the name *subulatus* had been applied erroneously to the eastern long-eared (Keen) bat, which should be known as *Myotis keenii septentrionalis*.

Genus *Lasiurus*
Red and Hoary Bats

Nycteris (part).

The generic name *Lasiurus* is now applied to the North American red and hoary bats. *Nycteris* applies to an African bat (see Miller, 1931, for explanation of Opinion 111 of International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature).

Mustela frenata noveboracensis Emmons
Long-tailed Weasel

Mustela noveboracensis noveboracensis.

The specific name *frenata* now applies to the long-tailed weasel, formerly known as New York weasel (Hall, 1936: 104-10).

Mustela vison vison Schreber

Mink

Mustela vison letifer (part).

The mink of the Upper Peninsula, although represented by a relatively small series of adults with unbroken skulls (five males and one female), is referable to the northeastern race *vison* and not the large Mississippi Valley *letifer*. On the skull of but one specimen is there an indication of a sagittal crest and that is poorly developed. The Lower Peninsula specimens have well-developed crests, and the males are larger than those of the Upper Peninsula, but not as large as is *letifer*. Two races of mink may be recognized in Michigan: *Mustela vison vison* occupies the Upper Peninsula and *Mustela vison mink* the Lower Peninsula.

Mephitis mephitis

Striped Skunks

The striped skunks of the eastern United States are all placed in the species *mephitis* (Hall, 1936: 62-73). The Michigan skunks are now known as *Mephitis mephitis nigra* (Lower Peninsula) and *Mephitis mephitis hudsonica* (Upper Peninsula).

Canis lupus lycaon Schreber

Timber Wolf

Canis lycaon.

All of the northern timber wolves are placed in the species *lupus* (Goldman, 1937).

Felis concolor cougar Kerr

Cougar

Felis cougar.

The cougars (mountain lions) are considered to belong to a single species, *concolor*. The cougar that formerly ranged through Michigan was probably *Felis concolor cougar* (Nelson and Goldman, 1929).

Marmota monax monax Linnaeus
Woodchuck

Marmota monax rufescens (part).

It was formerly believed that two races of the woodchuck occurred in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, *Marmota monax monax* in the southwestern counties and *Marmota monax rufescens* in the remainder of the peninsula. If properly allocated, this would give a peculiar discontinuous distribution for the race *rufescens*. A review of the materials in the collections of the Museum of Zoology has led me to the conclusion that the Lower Peninsula woodchucks are all intergrades between the eastern *monax* and the western *rufescens*. This is especially apparent when one considers size as a character. In coloration, however, the specimens approach *monax* more closely than they do *rufescens*, and it is my opinion that they should be so designated. I see no valid reason for recognizing two races in the Lower Peninsula.

Marmota monax rufescens Howell
Woodchuck

Marmota monax canadensis (part).

The Upper Peninsula woodchucks, formerly considered as *canadensis*, are nearly typical *rufescens* in both size and coloration. A few specimens are slightly paler than is *rufescens*, but still are closer to that race. Adult skulls are all more than 80 mm. in greatest length, whereas those of *canadensis* are usually less than this measurement.

Eutamias minimus jacksoni Howell
Least Chipmunk

Eutamias minimus neglectus (part).

Eutamias minimus borealis (part).

Howell (1925) placed *neglectus* in synonymy under *borealis* and described *jacksoni* as new. Later (1929), in his revision of the genus, he designated specimens from the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula as *borealis* and those from the western part as *jacksoni*. A specimen from Michigamme was allocated

to the race *borealis*, although the locality is well within the range mapped for *jacksoni*. I can see no appreciable differences between eastern and western Upper Peninsula *Eutamias*. I am provisionally calling all of them *jacksoni*, although I suspect that when fresh topotypes of *neglectus* become available (Howell had no topotypes) future study may show that race to be valid and *jacksoni* to be a synonym of it.

Tamias striatus griseus Mearns
Eastern Chipmunk

Tamias striatus lysteri (part).

The eastern chipmunk of the Upper Peninsula is now considered to be of the western race *griseus*. These chipmunks are definitely intermediate in characters between the eastern and western races, but seem best allocated to the western race *griseus* (Hooper, 1942).

Tamias striatus peninsulae Hooper
Eastern Chipmunk

Tamias striatus lysteri (part).

The chipmunks inhabiting the northern half of the Lower Peninsula have been described as representing a separate race (Hooper, 1942).

Tamias striatus rufescens Bole and Moulthrop
Eastern Chipmunk

Tamias striatus lysteri (part).

Tamias striatus fisheri (part).

Bole and Moulthrop (1942: 130) recently described the chipmunks from northeastern Ohio as belonging to a distinct race. Michigan specimens from the southern half of the Lower Peninsula are close to *rufescens* in color, but on the average have distinctly longer tails. They represent a population intergrading with *peninsulae* to the north, with *rufescens* to the southeast, with *ohionensis* to the southwest, and with *griseus* to the west. To give this population a name, in my opinion, would add to an already confused situation. Inas-

much as the southern Michigan chipmunks seem to be closest to *rufescens*, they are so allocated.

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus regalis Howell

Red Squirrel

Sciurus hudsonicus loquax (part).

Tamiasciurus regalis.

The red squirrels are now considered generically distinct from other North American tree squirrels (Howell, 1938: 35). Howell (1936) described the Isle Royale population as representing a distinct species. I am of the opinion that the characters pointed out by Howell in his description of *regalis* are of subspecific rather than specific value.

Sciurus carolinensis hypophaeus Merriam

Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis leucotis (part).

The gray squirrels of the Upper Peninsula and Beaver Island usually have the dark bellies characteristic of *hypophaeus*. It is thought advisable, on these grounds, to place them in this race rather than in *leucotis* as has been done previously. Specimens from the Lower Peninsula are intergrades, but, because of the predominance of white-bellied specimens, they are retained in the race *leucotis*. The dark-bellied *hypophaeus* may be no more than a color phase, but there is no definite proof of this at present.

Genus *Clethrionomys*

Red-backed Voles

Evotomys.

The generic name for the red-backed voles has been changed to *Clethrionomys*, this name having priority over *Evotomys* (Palmer, 1928).

Zapus hudsonius brevipes Bole and Moulthrop

Meadow Jumping Mouse

Zapus hudsonius hudsonius (part).

The jumping mice are badly in need of revisionary study. From the limited material at hand I can do little more than to

speculate on the probable relationships of those of eastern North America. In Labrador, the jumping mice are large, dark, with slight contrast between color of back and sides, and have long tails (average more than 140 mm.). These are known as *Zapus hudsonius ladas*. Specimens from Nova Scotia show little change from the above. Southward through the Atlantic coast states there is a gradual change toward smaller, shorter-tailed animals with more brightly colored sides. The extreme is reached in North Carolina, where the tail averages about 116 mm. These southern populations have been known as *Zapus hudsonius americanus*. Maine specimens, described as *hardyi*, seem to be intergrades between *ladas* and *hudsonius*. Bole and Moulthrop (1942: 165) revived the name *hardyi* and applied it to the mice inhabiting a large area from Maine to Ohio. This may be the correct interpretation, but I see little justification for it. In addition, they described two new races from Ohio, *rafinesque* from the southern section and *brevipes* from the northwestern part of the state. Specimens from the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, although slightly larger and with longer tails, are about the same in coloration as those from Ohio. Inasmuch as eastern material is not available in sufficient quantity for a critical study I am designating the Lower Peninsula jumping mice as *brevipes*, that name being the only one available now. I think, however, that southern Michigan and Ohio material would bear close comparison with *americanus*, especially from the southern part of its range.

Lepus americanus phaeonotus Allen
Snowshoe Hare

Lepus americanus americanus (part).

When Nelson (1909) revised the rabbits and hares of North America he had very few specimens (nine) from the mainland of Michigan. Isle Royale, with thirty-three specimens, was well represented. Nelson designated the hares from the western part of the Upper Peninsula as *phaeonotus* and all others, including those from the Lower Peninsula, as *ameri-*

canus. It is now apparent from the large series at hand that the Isle Royale hares, brownish gray with very little buff in summer pelage, are the only ones within the boundaries of the state that should be included in the race *americanus*. All others, in both peninsulas, are definitely *phaeonotus*. Some specimens even approach *virginianus* in the amount of bright buff present in summer pelages. It is possible that *virginianus*, or at least intergrades between that race and *phaeonotus*, was in the southern part of Michigan in the early days.

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