Natural History Information For Medium and Small Mammals

Mammal, Species	Habitat	Food	Reproductive Age, Mating Season/ Gestation Period, Offspring Info	Weight, Size, Longevity	Male, Female, Young, Group, Other Facts
AMERICAN BEAVER *Castor canadensis*	Lakes, ponds, marshes, rivers, streams	HERBIVORE Tree bark, aquatic plants, roots, grasses	3 years Jan to Feb/128 days Young born Apr to June 1 to 6 kits per litter 1 lb.	40 to 70 lbs. 3 to 4 ft. long 10 to 12 years	Male, Female, Kit, Colony Nose and ear valves close when submerged under water. Kits furred with eyes open and able to swim at birth. Castoreum from castor glands used to waterproof fur and mark territory.
COYOTE *Canis latrans*	Open woodlands, brushy or boulder strewn areas	CARNIVORE Snowshoe hares, microtine rodents, marmots, ground squirrels, fish, insects, sometimes Dall's sheep; carrion	1 year Feb to Mar/60 to 65 days Young born May to June 5 to 7 pups per litter 8 oz.	22 to 33 lbs., males heavier 4 ft. long, 2 ft. high 12 to 15 years	Dog, Bitch, Pup, Band, Pack, or Rout Name means "barking dog" or "song dog". Expanded range in N. America with decline of wolves. First noted in Alaska after the turn of the 20th century.
WOLVERINE *Gulo gulo*	Boreal forest, arctic and subalpine tundra; generally at or above timberline	CARNIVORE Ground squirrels, snowshoe hares, marmots, porcupines. Moose, caribou, and sheep, but mostly as scavenged carcasses.	2 years May to Aug/ 30 to 40 days Young born Jan to Apr Up to 4 young per litter 1 lb.	Male: 20 to 45 lbs. Female: 15 to 30 lbs. 36 in. long, 12 in. tall 10 years	Male, Female, Kit Solitary except during breeding. Name means "glutton". Exhibit delayed implantation of fertilized egg after breeding. Travel extensively. Home range 50 – 240 mi^2.
NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE *Erethizon dorsatum*	Wide variety from closed forest to open shrub tundra	HERBIVORE Summer: Buds, green leaves of birch, aspen, willow Winter: Inner bark of spruce	Females 1 year, males 2 years Sep to Nov/210 days Young born Apr to May One young 1 to 2 lbs., 10 in. long	15 - 18 lbs., females smaller 25 to 31 in. long 10 to 15 years	Male, Female, Porcupette Generally solitary. Name means "quill pig". Quills are modified hairs and contain antibiotic. Need for salt makes plywood, sweaty tool handles, and road salt attractive. Cannot throw quills but loose ones can be shaken free. Mainly nocturnal.
LYNX *Lynx canadensis*	Usually below tree line	CARNIVORE Snowshoe hares, squirrels, ptarmigan, rodents	1 year Jan to Feb/62 days Young born Mar. to May 1 to 4 kittens (avg. 2) per litter 0.5 lb.	11 to 35 lbs. 3 ft. long (head/body) 4 in. tail 3 to 4 years	Male, Female, Kitten Snowshoe hares are main food source. Population cycles every 9 to 10 years, 1to 2 years after hare population. Nocturnal. During hare scarcity will prey on sheep and other lynx. Kittens cry similar to gyrfalcon.
RED FOX *Vulpes fulva*	Widespread	OMNIVORE Mice, voles, lemmings, squirrels, Snowshoe hares, birds, eggs, insects, berries, vegetation, carrion	1-2 years Feb to March/53 days Young born Apr to May 4 to 10 kits (avg. 4) per litter 4 oz.	6 to 15 lbs. 22 to 25 in. long (head/body) 14 to 16 in. tail 3 to 5 years	Dog, Vixen, Kit or Pup, Family Silver fox, cross fox, and other color variations are all red fox. Several color phases can occur in a single litter. Dens extend 15-20 feet. Both parents and other related adults care for young.
HOARY MARMOT *Marmota caligata*	Rocky tundra, talus slopes, alpine meadows	HERBIVORE Vetches, sedges, grasses, mosses, lichens, flowers, flowering plants	2 to 3 years Apr to May/1 month 2 to 6 young per litter 1.5 oz.	10 lbs. 24 in. long 5 years	Male, Female, Young, Colony Disperse at 2 months. True hibernator Sept.-Apr. Body temperature drops to 40°F. Arouses every 2 weeks to eat, defecate, urinate. Latin name "caligata" means "boots" referring to dark blackish brown feet. Colonial. Use "whistle" alarm call.
SNOWSHOE HARE *Lepus americanus*	Forests, shrubby woodlands, riparian shrub thickets	HERBIVORE Summer: Grasses, buds, twigs, leaves Winter: Spruce twigs, needles, bark and buds of aspen and willow	1 year April/36 to 37 days First litter in May 2 to 4 young per litter 2 to 3 litters per year 2 oz.	3 to 4 lbs. 18 to 20 in. long 3 to 5 years	Male, Female, Leverets Can bound 9 ft. and travel 32 mph. Common and periodically abundant on about a 10 year cycle.

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AMERICAN MARTEN *Martes americana*	Black spruce forests, bogs	CARNIVORE Meadow voles, red backed voles, mice, berries, small birds, eggs, carrion	2 years July and August/220 to 275 days Young born April to early May 3 young per litter 1 oz. at birth	Up to 3 lbs. 19 to 25 in. plus tail 8 to 10 years	Male, Female, Young Delayed implantation. Generally solitary and nocturnal, hunting mostly at dawn and dusk. Spend much time in trees but hunt on the ground.
ARCTIC GROUND SQUIRREL *Spermophilus parryii*	Tundra, meadows, riverbanks, lakeshores	OMNIVORE Grasses, mushrooms, leaves, flowers, seeds, berries, and meat	1 year May/25 days 5 to 10 young per litter 1 oz. at birth	26 oz. 9 to 14 in. plus 3 to 6 in. tail Up to 8 years	Male, Female, Young Body temperature drops to 26ºF during hibernation. Other names include parka squirrel for use of skins by indigenous people for clothing and sik sik for the sound of their alarm call.
RED SQUIRREL *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*	Coniferous or mixed hardwood forests	OMNIVORE Seeds, berries, buds, fungi, insects, bird eggs	1 year 36 to 40 days 3 to 7 young per litter 0.25 oz. at birth	12 oz. 11 to13 in. 2 to 8 years	Male, Female, Young Home range ½ to 1 acre. Nest in hole in tree or dense mass of twigs, leaves, moss, or foliage in tree. Cone cache called midden may be up to 18 ft. across and 3 ft. deep. Cache mushrooms on tree branches.
ERMINE or SHORT TAILED WEASEL *Mustela erminea*	Forested, brushy, and open country	CARNIVORE Rodents, also shrews, pikas, birds, fish and insects	Females 2 months, males 1 year Mid to late summer/8 to 10 months Young born early May to June 3 to 10 young per litter 0.07 oz.	7 oz. 15 in. plus tail 4 to 7 years	Male, Female, Young Delayed implantation. White in winter, brown in summer, tip of tail always black. Eat about 40 of body weight daily. Dens lined with fur of prey. Surplus food stored inside dens.
COLLARED PIKA *Ochotona collaris*	Rock slides, talus slopes, large boulders near meadows and patches of vegetation	HERBIVORE Stems, leaves of grasses, small shrubs	1 year May to June/30 days 2 to 6 young per litter 0.3 oz.	5 oz. 6 to 8 in. 3 years	Male, Female, Young Make "hay piles" of collected vegetation for winter food. Breed after bearing first litter and produce second before end of summer.
RED-BACKED VOLE *Myodes rutilus*	Forest, woodland, shrub	OMNIVORE Grass, seeds, fungi, lichens, insects, and meat	2 to 4 months Late winter to Aug/17 to 19 days 2 to 11 young per litter Weaned 12 to 17 days	1 oz. 4 to 4 ½ in. plus 1 to 1 ½ in. tail 10 to 12 months	Male, Female, Young Active under snow all winter – subnivean.
CINEREUS SHREW *Sorex cinereus*	Wide variety of habitats but especially riparian areas with dense ground cover	INSECTIVORE Insects, spiders, other small invertebrates	5 to 11 months March to Aug/17 to 28 days 2 to 10 young per litter Weaned after 21 days	0.2 oz. 3 to 6.5 in. total length 12 to 18 months	Male, Female, Young Also known as masked shrew, common shrew. All shrews - have high metabolic rate requires frequent feeding throughout day and year. Abundance fluctuates considerably from year to year. Several litters per year.