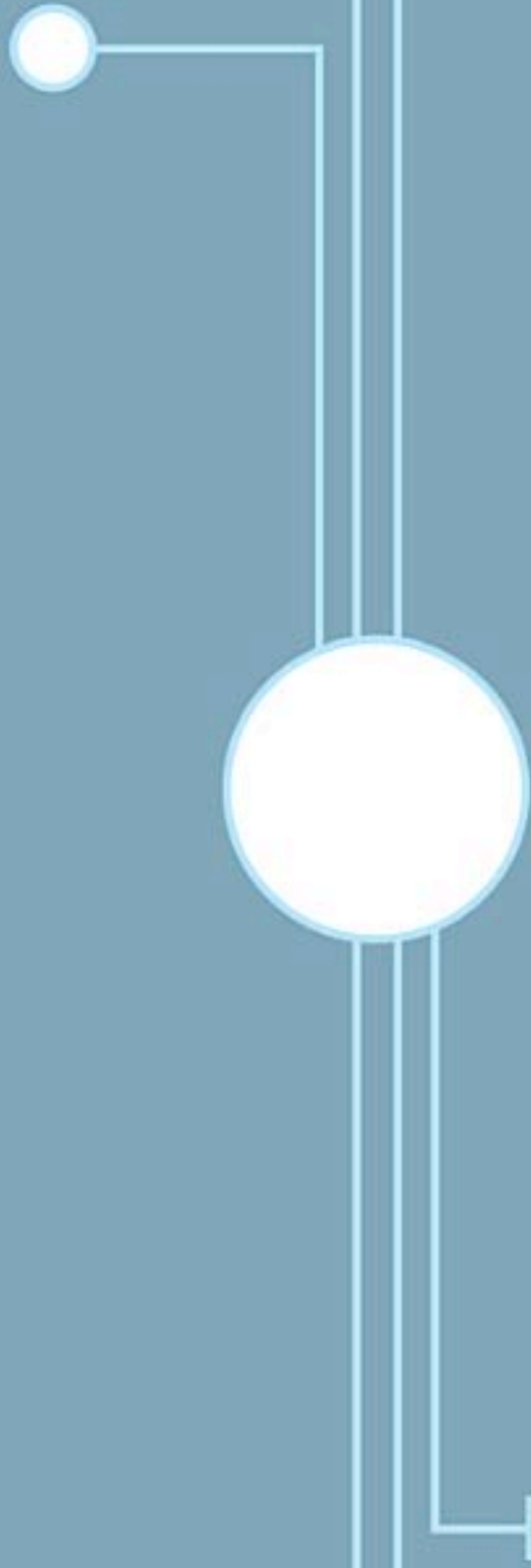


The Mammals of Minnesota

Gunderson and Beer



MINNESOTA ARCHIVE EDITIONS

- 59 (60). Tail less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of total length; plantar tubercles of hind feet 4; coronoid process of mandible long and projecting posteriorly.....*Onychomys leucogaster* (p. 99)
- 60 (59). Tail more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of total length; 6 plantar tubercles on hind feet; coronoid process very small..... 61
- 61 (62). Ear 15-16 mm.; tail not distinctly bicolored; anterior border of zygomatic plate covers infraorbital foramen when viewed from the side.....*Peromyscus leucopus* (p. 104)
- 62 (61). Ear 13-15 mm. or 18 mm. or 21 mm.; tail distinctly bicolored; anterior border of zygomatic plate does not cover infraorbital foramen when viewed from the side.....*Peromyscus maniculatus* (pp. 102, 104)

Family SCIURIDAE

The family includes the Woodchuck, ground squirrels, chipmunks, tree squirrels, and flying squirrels. Their skulls have postorbital processes, 4 cheek teeth below and 4 or 5 above on each side of the jaw. All have thickly haired tails.

Genus *Marmota*

(Teeth: i 1/1, c 0/0, pm 2/1, m 3/3 = 22)

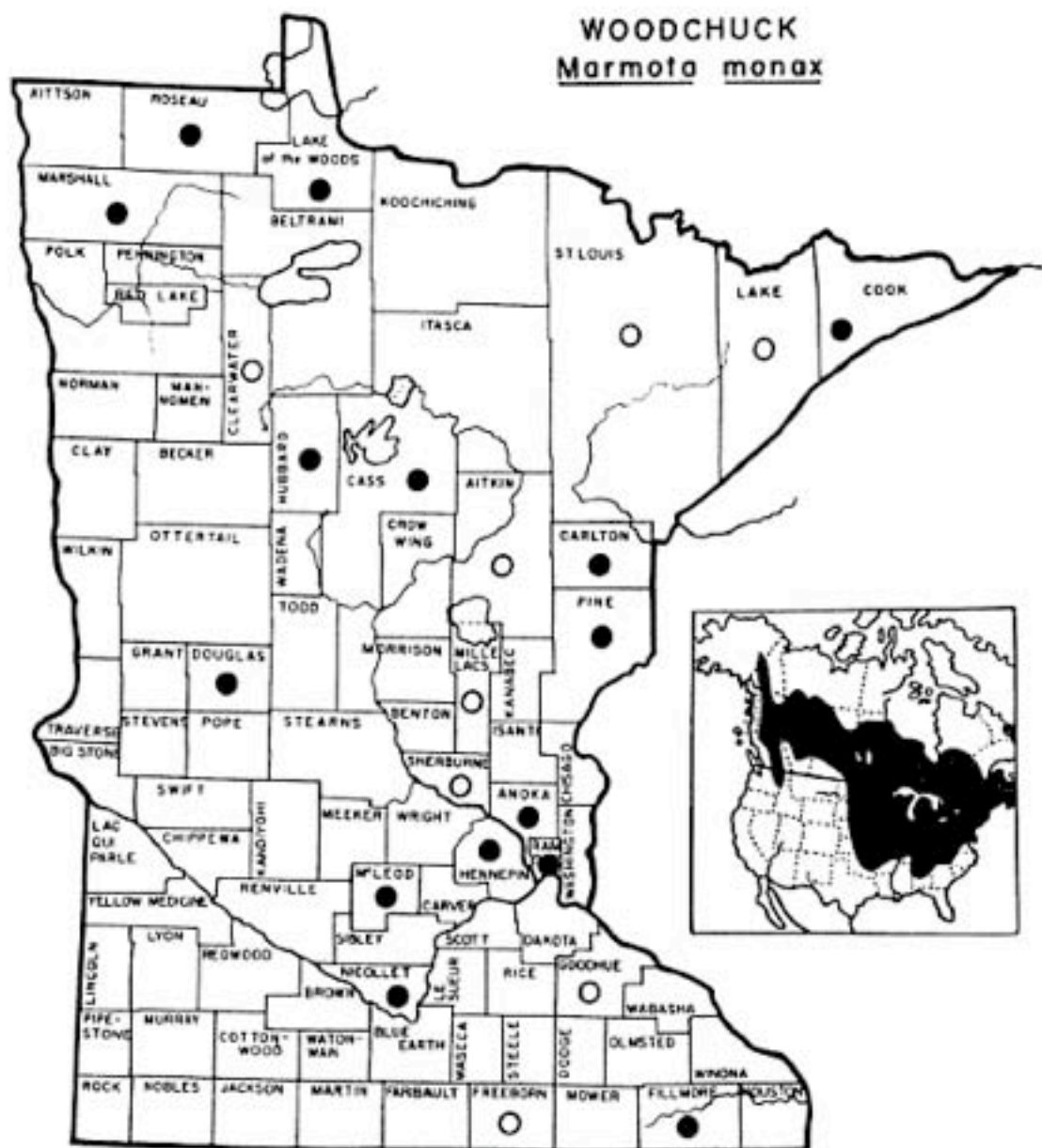
Woodchuck, Ground Hog (*Marmota monax* Linnaeus)

MEASUREMENTS (5 Minnesota specimens): length, 506 (460-544); tail, 130 (120-147); hind foot, 69 (61-74). WEIGHT: 4.9-6.5 lb.

The Woodchuck is the largest member of the squirrel family, and the only member of the family with white incisors. Its fur is grizzled brown or grayish-brown in color, with yellowish tips on the under fur which give the animal a yellowish cast. The tail is relatively short and well furred. Its compact, heavy body is supported by short muscular legs, its whole anatomy being well adapted to a burrowing life. It lives in a system of burrows and is more active during the daytime than at night (diurnal).

The Woodchuck is found over the entire state except possibly the southwestern prairie counties. It prefers the edges of clearings, although it is occasionally found in fairly heavy woods. Its requirements seem to include land high enough to prevent the flooding of its burrows and at least some brushy growth for protective cover; yet the area must be open enough for the growth of grass, clover, and other plants that are used for food. The Woodchuck acquires a great deal of fat during the fall before going into hibernation. The single litter

WOODCHUCK
Marmota monax



Distribution of *Marmota monax*. (Solid symbols indicate specimens seen; open symbols, authentic records.)