

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF THE MAMMALS COLLECTED BY THE
LATE MR. CHARLES L. MCKAY IN THE VICINITY OF BRISTOL
BAY, ALASKA.

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The collection of mammals made by Mr. Charles L. McKay, whose untimely death is a matter for sincere regret, is one of very considerable interest.

Mr. McKay went to Alaska in 1881, and was accidentally drowned April 19, 1883. He was stationed at Fort Alexander, on Bristol Bay, and most of the specimens collected are from localities within a radius of a hundred miles from the fort.

The collection comprises 59 specimens, representing 23 species. Some of the labels contain special data regarding the specimens to which they are attached, and additional facts are given in a note-book found among Mr. McKay's papers. Others are not labeled.

The collection appears to indicate that the mammalian fauna of the Bristol Bay region does not differ from that of other districts in the same latitude lying further to the east.

CANIDÆ.

1. *Vulpes fulvus decussatus* (Desmarest). *Cross Fox.*

Two very fine male specimens (13618, 13619), from Nushagak, captured on February 20 and 15, 1882, respectively.

MUSTELIDÆ.

2. *Putorius erminea* (Linné) Griffith. *Ermine.*

Six specimens. No. 14085 is a female in summer pelage; mammae, 6 pairs. No. 14077, female, taken at Ugashik River, November 10, 1881, is in winter pelage.

3. *Putorius vison* (Schreber) Gapper. *Mink.*

Two specimens. No. 13622, from Nushagak, captured October 5, 1881.

4. *Lutra canadensis* (Turton) F. Cuvier. *Otter.*

A young specimen was obtained at some point on the Nushagak River, and a larger male at Calluganuck.

URSIDÆ.

5. ? *Ursus americanus* Pallas. *Cinnamon Bear.*

Under No. 7, Mr. McKay wrote in his note-book as follows: "*Ursus americanus cinnamomeus*; two specimens, young. Skinned and brought in by the Indians, Kokwok, April 30, 1882." The specimens are cubs,

about 60^{cm} long, of a dark-cinnamon color. The muzzle is not especially lighter than the body. One, No. 13616, has a complete snowy-white collar, and is also white on the belly. The fore claws are strongly curved and sharp; they extend about 2^{cm} beyond the fur. The hind claws are smaller and protrude only about 1^{cm} beyond the fur. The hair is uniform in color from base to tip, and strongly crenulate.

OTARIIDÆ.

6. *Callorhinus ursinus* (Linné) Gray. *Fur Seal*.

One specimen. Locality not given.

SORICIDÆ.

7. *Sorex Forsteri* Richardson. *Forster's Shrew*.

Mr. McKay obtained three shrews (Nos. 14090-14092), which I have provisionally identified with this species. No. 14092 was sent to Dr. George A. Dobson for examination. Nos. 14090 and 14091 differ very considerably in coloration and proportions, but agree in dentition. They may belong to two distinct species. Exact localities are not given.

VESPERTILIONIDÆ.

8. *Vespertilio lucifugus* Le Conte.

A specimen from Iliamna Lake was collected in the spring of 1882. Iliamna Lake is in latitude 60°, and is, I believe, the most northern locality in America from which specimens of Chiroptera have been obtained. Mr. W. J. Fisher procured numerous specimens of the same species in Kodiak Island.

LEPORIDÆ.

9. *Lepus timidus* Linné. *Arctic Hare*.

Two specimens. No. 13620, collected at Nushagak, December 30, 1881.

LAGOMYIDÆ.

10. *Lagomys princeps* Richardson. *Pika*.

Two specimens from the Chigmit Mountains, collected during the winter of 1882.

"Said to be very plentiful in the mountains. The Indians in their vicinity have a superstitious dread about killing them, and cannot be hired to do so." (McKay's note-book.)

HYSTRICIDÆ.

11. *Erethizon dorsatus epixanthus* (Brandt) Allen. *Yellow-haired Porcupine*.

Four specimens. No. 13621, a female, from Kokwok, collected April 10, 1882; Nos. 14087, 14088, foetal, from Nushagak.

The Kokwok specimen is peculiar in the color and disposition of its spines and hair, and might merit subspecific designation were it not that the porcupines vary indefinitely in these particulars.

On the upper surfaces of the body the basal half of the under fur is white, the distal half is dark brown. The long hairs are yellow in the distal half, but some are white in the basal half, while others are brown. The hairs are about 15^{cm} long. With the under fur, they completely conceal the spines, except on the neck, rump, and tail. Spines are absent from the sides and are few in number and weak in the middle of the back. On the rump, however, they are numerous and strong, and, as already stated, are not mingled with, nor concealed by, long hair. They do not extend beyond the under fur, but are visible in it.

ZAPODIDÆ.

12. *Zapus hudsonius* Coues. *Jumping Mouse*.

Two specimens. Nushagak, August 21, 1882. "Rare; caught in a cache." (McKay's note-book.)

This rodent has been taken in somewhat higher latitudes in British America, but has not, I believe, been hitherto recorded from Alaska.

MURIDÆ.

13. *Arvicola riparius* Richardson. *Meadow Mouse*.

Seven specimens, Nos. 14099-14103, 14106, 14147. Localities not definitely given.

14. *Evotomys rutilus Gapperi* (Vigors) Coues. *Red-backed Mouse*.

One specimen, No. 14104. Locality not definitely given.

15. *Myodes obensis* Brants. *Lemming*.

A single young specimen, in summer pelage.

16. *Cuniculus torquatus* (Pallas) Coues. *White Lemming*.

Four specimens, in winter pelage, taken at Nushagak in the winter of 1882-'83. "Not very common. Found in the tundras, &c." (McKay.)

17. *Fiber zibethicus* (Linné) Cuvier. *Muskrat*.

Three specimens. No. 13626 taken at Nushagak, September 10, 1881; No. 13959, at Ugashik, July, 1881. No. 14076 is a pure albino.

CASTORIDÆ.

18. *Castor fiber* Linné. *Beaver*.

A young specimen (No. 13627), taken at Kokwok, December 17, 1881.

SCIURIDÆ.

19. *Sciurus hudsonius* Pallas. *Red Squirrel*.

Three specimens, taken in the vicinity of Lake Iliamna in the winter of 1882, belong to the subspecies *hudsonius*.

20. *Spermophilus empetra* Pallas. *Parry's Spermophile.*

No. 13958, taken at Nushagak, approaches the subspecies *Kodiaccensis* in the small amount of rufous which is present. The sides and belly are lightly suffused with that tint, while on the shoulders and extremities it is somewhat stronger.

21. *Arctomys pruinosus* Gmelin. *Hoary Marmot.*

Two young specimens, respectively from the Upper and Lower Aleknagik Lakes; a third still younger. The white on the head of No. 13649 is very pure, and reaches back nearly to the base of the ears and downward to the eyes.

BOVIDÆ.

22. *Ovis canadensis* Dall Nelson. *Dall's Sheep.*

Dall's sheep, of which two specimens, a male and female, were obtained by Mr. McKay, were reported to him to be plentiful in the Chigmit Mountains. The specimens procured were from that region.

The following measurements were made upon the flat skins and the horns:

	Male.	Female.
	<i>cm.</i>	<i>cm.</i>
Length from point between horn-cores to base of tail	139.5	133.5
Length from point between horn-cores to extremity of nose	18.5
Length of horn, measured around the curve	94.5	20.0
Circumference of horn at base	28.5
Distance between the points of the two horns	58.5

The color of the hair in both sexes is cream-white throughout. The horns are also very light, but the hoofs are dull brown. The horns of the male are flat toward the tip and quite sharply pointed.

CERVIDÆ.

23. *Rangifer tarandus caribou* (Kerr). *Woodland Caribou.*

A male and a female were obtained at Nushagak in the early part of 1882.