

Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys ordii*), White-footed Mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*), Montana Vole (*Microtus montanus*), Townsend's Vole (*Microtus townsendii*), Sagebrush Vole (*Lagurus curtatus*), Black-footed Ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) and Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*).

Numerous species of Canadian mammals are rare or endangered in some part of their range, due usually to a combination of factors including destruction of habitat and excessive hunting pressure. Notable among these are Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*), Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*), Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), Marten (*Martes americana*), Black-footed Ferret (*Mustela nigripes*), Cougar (*Felis concolor*), Wapiti (*Cervus elaphus*), Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) and Bison (*Bison bison*) as well as several species of whales.

A list of the 34 families of mammals found in Canada, showing the number of species occurring in Canada, follows: Didelphidae (New World Opossums), 1; Insectivora (Insectivores), 12; Talpidae (Moles), 6; Vespertilionidae (Vespertilionid Bats), 16; Molossidae (Molossid Bats), 1; Hominidae (Man), 1; Ochotonidae (Pikas), 1; Leporidae (Hares and Rabbits), 6; Aplodontidae (Mountain Beavers), 1; Sciuridae (Squirrels), 23; Geomyidae (Pocket Gophers), 2; Heteromyidae (Heteromyids), 3; Castoridae (Beaver), 1; Muridae (Rats and Mice), 32; Zapodidae (Jumping Mice), 4; Erethizontidae (New World Porcupines), 1; Ziphiidae (Beaked Whales), 7; Physteridae (Sperm Whale), 2; Monodontidae (Monodontids), 2; Delphinidae (Delphinids), 13; Eschrichtidae (Gray Whale), 1; Balaenopteridae (Balaenopterid Whales), 5; Balaenidae (Baleen Whales), 3; Canidae (Canids), 6; Ursidae (Bears), 3; Procyonidae (Procyonids), 1; Mustelidae (Mustelids), 14; Felidae (Cats), 3; Otariidae (Eared Seals), 3; Rosmaridae (Walrus), 1; Phocidae (Hair Seals), 7; Cervidae (Cervids), 5; Antilocapridae (Pronghorn), 1; Bovidae (Bovids), 5.

The Birds of Canada

Canada's rich avifauna comprises 518 species of recent birds belonging to 64 families. Birds, however, are not distributed uniformly across this vast and ecologically varied land. The Pacific Coast, western mountains, prairies, boreal forests, Atlantic Coast and arctic tundra all have species peculiar to them. Most bird species prefer particular habitats in which to live and consequently the distribution of the various species may be extremely intricate.

Some species like the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) and Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) have vast ranges in Canada and many others are only slightly less widely distributed. Some, like Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendii*), are confined to the western mountains and others, such as the Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*), to the prairies. Certain species, such as the Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), are confined to the West Coast and others, like the Razorbill (*Alca torda*), to the East Coast. The Rock and Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus* and *L. lagopus*) are examples of species that have arctic and subarctic ranges and still others, such as Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) and Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), have nesting ranges mostly south of Canada and penetrate only into small southernmost parts of this country. The Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*) has the most restricted breeding range of all, its entire nesting population being confined to tiny Sable Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia.

A number of species, for example Harcourt's Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) and Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), are accidental stragglers from distant parts of the world and have been found in Canada only once. Three species, the Great Auk (*Pinguinus impennis*), Labrador Duck (*Camptorhynchus labradorius*), and Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) are extinct; and the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) and Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) have tottered on the brink of extinction for some years. The Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), formerly found in southern Ontario, has been extirpated but the Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*), once perilously close to extinction, has been saved by wise management practices.