

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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September 2007



Great Swamp

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Mammals

White footed mouse on Pussy willow
Blaine J. Rothausen



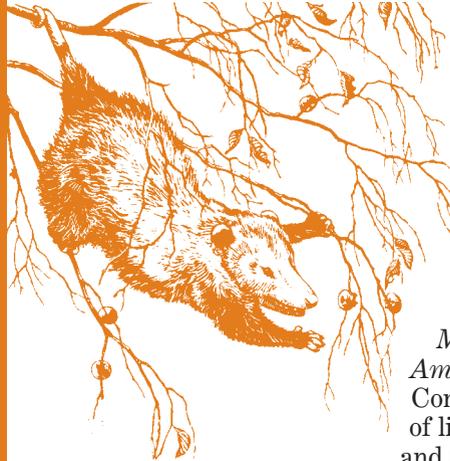
This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Refuge System.

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is in north-central New Jersey in Morris County. The refuge contains approximately 7,725 acres of hardwood swamp, upland timber, brush, marsh and ponds, and poorly drained pasture. In 1968, the eastern half of the refuge was designated as a Wilderness Area-to be left forever wild.

Although established primarily to preserve habitat for migratory birds, there is an abundance of other wildlife, including many mammals. Toward evening visitors are likely to see whitetail deer feeding in the fields. Raccoon are common but rarely seen during daylight hours. Muskrats may be seen in wet areas at dawn and dusk-especially during the spring.



Fawn



Opossum

The following list was prepared in cooperation with the Biology Department at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Scientific names generally follow Hall, *The Mammals of North America, Second Edition*. Common names and order of listing are given in Burt and Grossenheider, *A Field Guide to the Mammals*.

Opossum

(*Didelphis virginiana*)

Common along streams and marshes near woodland areas.

Masked Shrew

(*Sorex cinereus*)

Found in poorly drained fields.

Smoky Shrew

(*Sorex fumus*)

Inhabits most fields and most wooded areas.

Short-Tailed Shrew

(*Blarina brevicauda*)

Common in wooded and swampy areas.

Starnose Mole

(*Condylura cristata*)

Abundant in vicinity of swamps and brooks.

Big Brown Bat

(*Eptesicus fuscus*)

This common bat frequently roosts in buildings and man-made structures.

Little Brown Bat

(*Myotis lucifugus*)

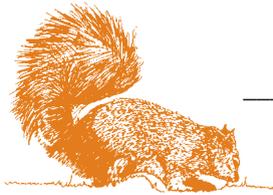
Very numerous over the entire refuge, this bat can eat up to 1/3 of its body weight in insects each night.

Indiana bat

(*Myotis sodalis*)

This federally endangered, tree-roosting species is found in good numbers across the refuge.

*Bats are summer residents of the refuge, migrating from caves and abandoned mines where they hibernate in winter.



Gray Squirrel

Eastern pipistrelle

(Perimyotis subflavus)

This tree-roosting species is the smallest bat regularly occurring on the refuge.

Northern long-eared bat

(Myotis septentrionalis)

Fairly common; prefers to forage in forest interiors.

Red Bat

(Lasiurus borealis)

This solitary creature is occasionally seen during the day flying along wooded streams, and is one of the few bats that regularly gives birth to twins.

Eastern small-footed bat

(Myotis leibii)

Roosting in rock crevices, caves and buildings, this species sometimes passes through the refuge during migration.

Black Bear

(Urus americanus)

Rarely observed on the refuge.

Raccoon

(Procyon lotor)

Very numerous over the entire refuge.

Longtail Weasel

(Mustela frenata)

A common but infrequently seen inhabitant of upland areas.

Mink

(Mustela vison)

Fairly common in wet areas but rarely seen.

River Otter

(Lutra canadensis)

Extirpated in the Great Swamp until it reappeared in the 1970's. Now present in moderate numbers and reproducing.

Striped Skunk

(Mephitis mephitis)

Common but seldom seen.

Red Fox

(Vulpes vulpes)

Common throughout the refuge.

Raccoon



Gray Fox

(Urocyon cinereoargenteus)

Found in brushy woodlands. Not common.

Woodchuck

(Marmota monax)

Occasionally seen near their burrows in dry upland fields and woodlands.

Eastern Chipmunk

(Tamias striatus)

Commonly found in upland woods.

Gray Squirrel

(Sciurus carolinensis)

Very common in upland hardwoods. When hollow trees are in short supply, look for their round, leaf nests constructed high in the tops of trees.

Red Squirrel

(Tamiasciurus hudsonicus)

May be seen in evergreen trees or surrounding hardwoods.



Gray Fox



Beaver

— **Southern Flying Squirrel**

(*Glaucomys volans*)

Fairly common, but seldom seen during the day.

— **Beaver**

(*Castor Canadensis*)

Uncommon, but may be observed in or near the refuge's brooks.

— **White-footed Mouse**

(*Peromyscus leucopus*)

Abundant in woodland areas.

— **Southern Red-backed Vole**

(*Clethrionomys gapperi*)

A ground-dwelling vole of damp and cool forests.

— **Meadow Vole**

(*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)

Common in fields and grassy areas.

— **Woodland Vole**

(*Microtus pinetorum*)

Primarily found in deciduous woodlands.

— **Muskrat**

(*Ondatra zibethicus*)

Populations are cyclic. Look for their mound-shaped houses in swamps and marshes.

— **House Mouse**

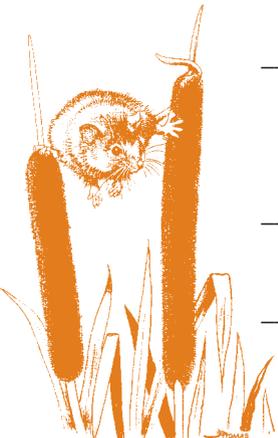
(*Mus musculus*)

Present in fields and buildings.

— **Meadow Jumping Mouse**

(*Zapus hudsonius*)

Occasionally seen in fields. May be mistaken for frogs when seen jumping through the grass.



House Mouse

— **Woodland Jumping Mouse**

(*Napaeozapus insignis*)

Found in wet and heavily wooded areas.

— **Eastern Cottontail**

(*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

Found in brushy upland areas.

— **Whitetail Deer**

(*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Common throughout the refuge. Viewing opportunities best in early morning and early evening.

— **Coyote**

(*Canis latrans*)

Coyotes were first observed on the refuge in the early 1990's. They are rarely observed, but sometimes in the evening a series of high-pitched yaps may be heard.

**U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service**

Great Swamp is one of more than 547 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represent the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.

The Service also manages National Fish Hatcheries, and provides Federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance and the conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.