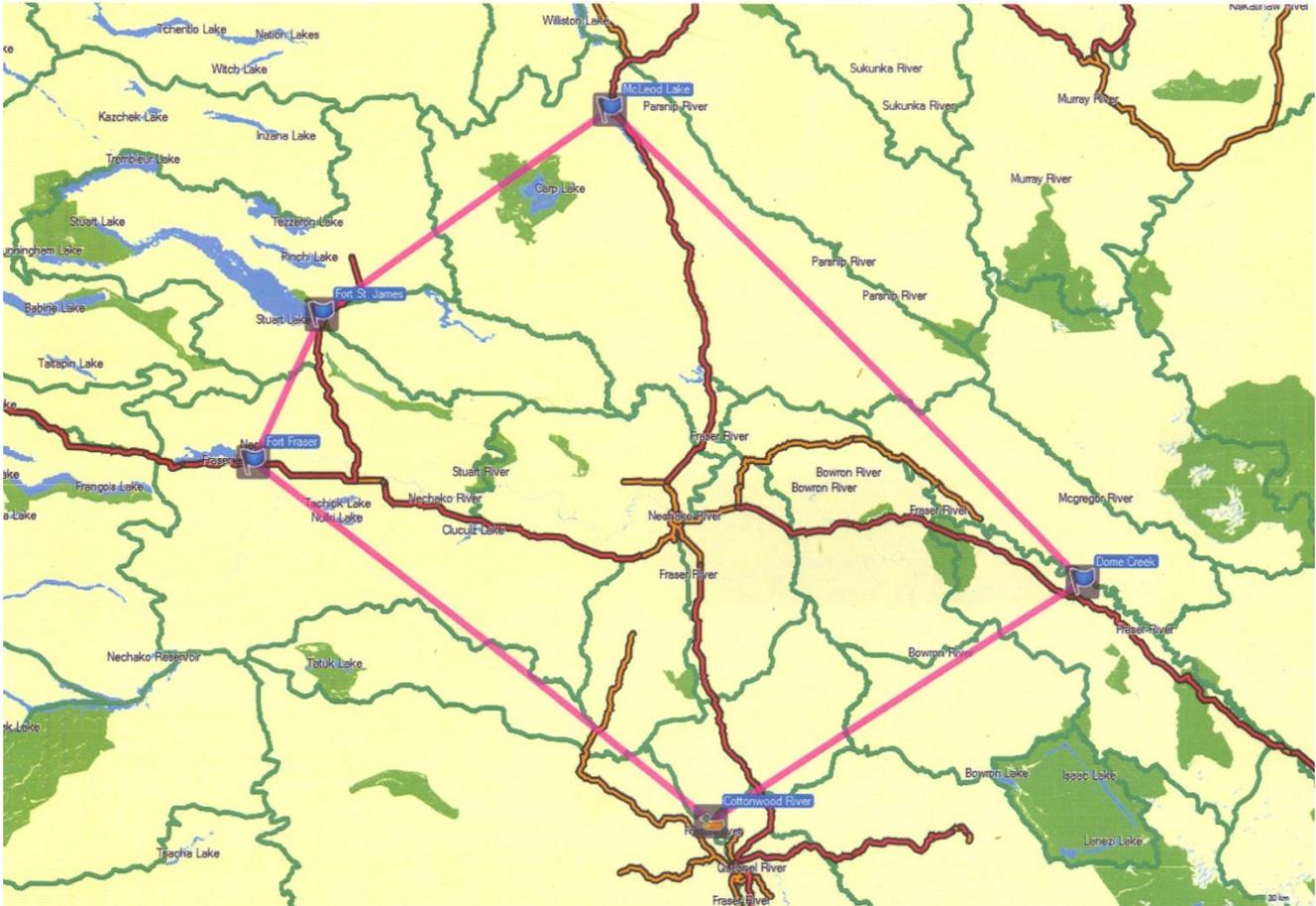


# Checklist of North-Central BC Mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles, July 2012 Edition

## Area Covered

This checklist covers the region around Prince George extending north to Macleod Lake, west to Fort Fraser and Fort St James, south to the Cottonwood River, and east to Dome Creek.



## Introduction

This checklist is an ongoing project and will be honed continuously. If you have additions, amendments, suggestions, or comments, please forward them to [clive\\_keen@hotmail.com](mailto:clive_keen@hotmail.com). Information on species not included, or noted as rare, unconfirmed, or not recorded in the area, are particularly welcomed.

## Key

The symbols below refer to the likelihood of observing a particular species in its normal habitat, at the appropriate time of year. To give an example: many people will never see a hoary marmot, and yet it is fairly common in the alpine during the short alpine summer, and thus it is given an "F" for "Fairly common". The symbols *do not* refer to the numerical abundance of a species. Flying squirrels and masked shrews, for

instance, are surprisingly plentiful , but are not often seen, even in the right place and time, and are thus each given a "U" classification.

"Isolated reports" refers to confirmed but unexpected reports, where the animal might have been a release or a vagrant. "Unconfirmed reports" are similar, and though credible, have not been corroborated, for example by multiple observers or photographic evidence. "Not known in the area" refers to species that some might expect to live around Prince George – rats, bobcats, and racoons, for instance – but are currently believed *not* to be here. If you observe any I, X, or N species, do your best to acquire photographs!

A	Abundant (seen on many trips)	R	Rare (hardly ever seen)
C	Common (often seen)	I	Isolated reports
F	Fairly common (seen on some trips)	X	Unconfirmed reports
U	Uncommon (not often seen)	N	Not known in the area

### Comment column

This column gives some commentary on observations of the species. Please let us know if you have improvements to the description, particularly on good locations to observe the species.

UNGULATES		
Stone (Dall's) Sheep	N	Believed to be well outside the PG area, to the north of Williston Lake
Mule Deer	C	Omnipresent. Best seen at dawn and dusk
White-tailed deer	F	There's plenty about, particularly in agricultural areas, but they are more secretive than mule deer
Moose	C	Omnipresent. Best not seen attached to the front of your car
Caribou	U	Found in alpine and sub-alpine meadows throughout the year
Elk	F	Expanding their range, but with patchy distribution, including the Hart, Salmon Valley, and Stuart River.

CATS		
Cougar	U	Nocturnal around human areas so likely to be heard rather than seen
Lynx	U-F	Numbers vary greatly with the hare cycle.
Bobcat	N	If you think you see a bobcat, it is much more likely to be a lynx, since the bobcat's accepted range is well to the south of Prince George

MUSTELIDS		
Striped Skunk	R	Found in wooded streamsides and farmsteads
American Marten	U	Prefers mature coniferous forests
Fisher	R	Most active at night and so rarely seen
Least Weasel	U	Likes open grassy areas and forest edges
Short-tailed Weasel	U	Prefers mixed forests and streamsides
Long-tailed Weasel	U	Found in open country
American Mink	U	Never found far from water
Northern River Otter	U	Otter slides, or the animals themselves, often seen at Crooked River
Wolverine	R	Seen (but rarely) on or near logging roads in remote areas, and in alpine and sub-alpine areas

<b>BEARS</b>		
Black Bear	F	Frequently seen from the road near forested areas; often stray into town
Grizzly Bear	U	Most often seen in "wilder" areas but present throughout the region

<b>CANIDS &amp; RACCOON</b>		
Coyote	C	Often seen wandering open fields
Grey Wolf	U	In forests and woodland streamsides, and lakes and rivers in winter
Red Fox	F	Brushy semi-open areas. Regularly seen throughout PG
Common Raccoon	X	The accepted range is far from Prince George, but there has been an unconfirmed report from Beaverley

<b>MUROIDIA</b>		
Meadow Jumping Mouse	R	Prefers moist fields and marshes
Western Jumping Mouse	R	Prefers tall grass near streams. Found on Cranbrook Hill.
Bushy-tailed Woodrat	R	Found in rock piles, mine shafts and caves, often at high elevation. Seen in Fang Cave and the entrance to Close to the Edge Cave.
House Mouse	F	Homes, barns, granaries, outbuildings, rubbish piles
Deer Mouse	F	Numerous habitats, including buildings
Southern Red-backed Vole	U	Normally in damp, boggy areas
Western Heather Vole	U	Normally in open and alpine areas
Meadow Vole	F	Makers of the tunnels under the snow appearing during spring melt
Long-tailed Vole	U	Wet meadows with stunted thickets
Northern Bog Lemming	R	Alpine meadows and spruce woods
Muskrat	A	Frequently seen in ponds such as the Shelley lagoons and oxbow
Yellow Pine Chipmunk	R	Pastures and farms, lowland forest to alpine
Rat - Brown and Black	N	Fortunately not believed to be in this area in the wild

<b>SHREWS</b>		
Masked Shrew	R	Abundant under forest debris but rarely seen
Pygmy Shrew	R	Lives in a variety of habitats. Spotted in Salmon Valley
Dusky Shrew	U	Moist alpine; wet sedge meadows; mountain brooks
Common Water Shrew	U	The easiest shrew to see; eating prey by the side of streams

<b>SQUIRRELS</b>		
Woodchuck	U	Patchy distribution throughout the area: seen in woodpiles as well as meadows and old fields
Hoary Marmot	F	Found and heard - they are quite noisy - at 4000+ feet.
Yellow-bellied Marmot	X	There is one confirmed historical record of a YBM in Prince George, but just rumours in recent years
Columbian Ground Squirrel	F	Seen at Huble Homestead and Salmon Valley and in the alpine
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	N	Not officially recorded in the PG area, but their range is considered similar to the Columbian. Inhabit rock outcrops and talus slopes

Red Squirrel	A	Omnipresent; as is their chitter. Cottonwood Park for photos.
Northern Flying Squirrel	U	Found in coniferous forests - but take a flashlight

<b>OTHER RODENTS</b>		
Porcupine	R	Can be found in rangeland as well as forests. Seems to have been declining in recent decades.
Beaver	F	Beaver dams are easily seen: Esker's Park has a beauty
Mountain Beaver	X	Prince George is far from its accepted range, but there is a single report from Pass Lake

<b>LAGOMORPHS</b>		
Snowshoe Hare	F	In forest or dense shrub: seen regularly at Cottonwood Park
American Pika	N	Their accepted range is far to the south of the PG region

<b>BATS</b>		
Long-eared Bat	R	In forested areas close to rocky outcrops
Northern Bat	N	Found outside the region in the Robson Valley
Little Brown Bat	F	The most likely bat to be found in caves. Seen in Meadow Cave and cottages
Silver-haired Bat	U	In forests and also parks, cities, farmland
Big Brown Bat	U	In Forests and also parks, cities, farmland. Seen in Fang Cave entrance.

<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		
Western Toad	C	Easily seen in ponds during spring mating; e.g. Shelley oxbows & lagoons, Shane Lake, Ferguson Lake
Columbian Spotted Frog	C	Common in the PG area. In April-May males in ponds and lakes call to females.
Pacific Tree (Chorus) Frog	U	Found 75 km south of Prince George. Can be found in woodlands, meadows, pastures and urban areas, often far from water
Wood Frog	U	Seasonal pools, shallow ponds, marshy lake edges, flooded meadows
Western Long-toed Salamander	U	Breeds in shallow ponds with boggy edges

<b>REPTILES</b>		
Painted Turtle	I	Supposedly not in this area, but spotted and photographed at the Shelley oxbows – very probably a release
Common Garter Snake	F	Found in riparian areas, marshes and wet meadows. Watch for shed skin, e.g. at Shelley lagoons
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake	U	Very aquatic; rarely found far from water