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Distribution, Abundance, and  
Habitat Associations of Franklin's  
Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus  
franklinii* Sabine 1822)

J.J. Huebschman

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# Distribution, Abundance, and Habitat Associations of Franklin's Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii* Sabine 1822)

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CONTENTS

Abstract. . . . . 1

Introduction. . . . . 1

Methods. . . . . 3

Accounts . . . . . 3

    Pleistocene and Holocene . . . . . 3

    North America. . . . . 4

        Canada. . . . . 5

            Alberta. . . . . 5

            Manitoba. . . . . 9

            Ontario . . . . . 12

            Saskatchewan . . . . . 13

        United States. . . . . 15

            Illinois . . . . . 15

            Indiana. . . . . 17

            Iowa. . . . . 18

            Kansas. . . . . 20

            Minnesota . . . . . 20

            Missouri . . . . . 24

            Nebraska . . . . . 25

            North Dakota. . . . . 26

            South Dakota. . . . . 27

            Wisconsin . . . . . 27

Discussion. . . . . 31

    Habitat. . . . . 32

        Historical and natural associations . . . . . 32

        Agricultural associations. . . . . 33

        Right-of-ways . . . . . 33

    Influence on Abundance. . . . . 33

        Population cycles and fluctuations . . . . . 34

        Disturbance . . . . . 34

        Dispersal . . . . . 34

        Effects of habitat. . . . . 34

    Conservation and Threats . . . . . 35

        Habitat loss and disturbance . . . . . 35

        Conservation status. . . . . 35

Conclusions . . . . . 36

Acknowledgments . . . . . 36

Literature Cited. . . . . 37

Appendix . . . . . 46

## ABSTRACT

To better inform conservation and management strategies directed at Franklin's ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, I reviewed published and unpublished accounts of the squirrel's distribution, abundance, and principally, habitat associations. I present the body of literature on *S. franklinii* and include portions of original accounts to avoid potential bias from paraphrasing. A consensus of the literature indicates that *S. franklinii* is most frequently associated with habitat characterized by a mixture of grassy and woody vegetation, referred to as savanna-like or parkland habitat. Moreover, *S. franklinii* has had an affinity for this type of habitat throughout its geographic range in recent, historic, and even prehistoric times. This is in contrast to a view of the species as primarily associated with tallgrass prairie habitat. As indicated in the literature, populations of *S. franklinii* are subject to marked fluctuations, which probably are influenced by local disturbances in addition to regular dispersal events. In the southern part of its geographic range, *S. franklinii* is currently limited in its occurrence principally to roadside and railroad right-of-ways. In these southern regions *S. franklinii* is justifiably of conservation concern. I suggest that more detailed surveys for the species (such as those that have recently occurred in Illinois and Missouri) take place in Iowa and Kansas.

Keywords: Franklin's ground squirrel, savanna, *Spermophilus franklinii*

## INTRODUCTION

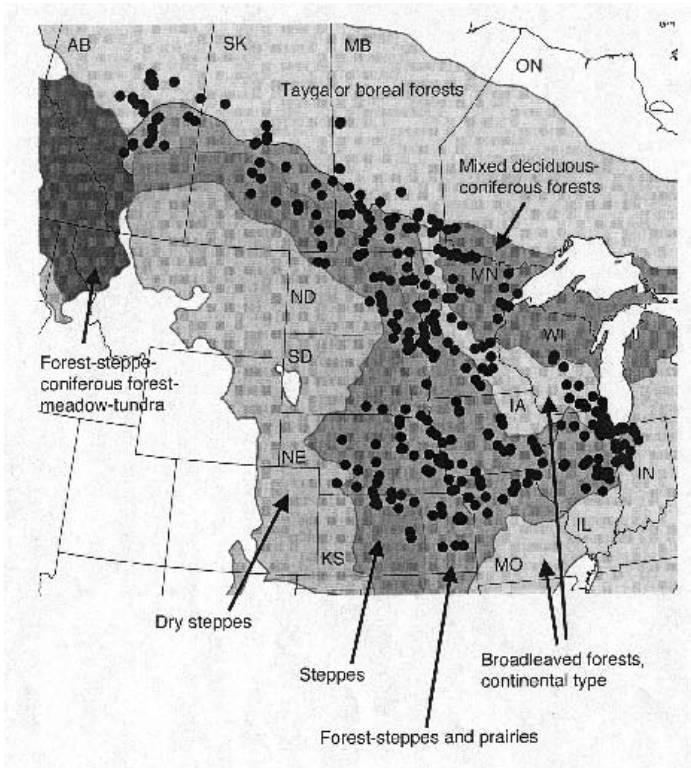
Franklin's ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii* (Sabine 1822), is a large ground squirrel, tawny-brown in color, with the exception of both its head and fluffy tail, which are grayish (Fig. 1). The dorsal surface of the squirrel is finely mottled as a result of barring on the shafts of individual hairs that alternates between tawny-brown and black. Hair on the tail, which is long and soft, appears gray because of black and pale-gray barring. Like other North American ground squirrels, *S. franklinii* is both semi-fossorial and an obligate seasonal hibernator (Murie 1999). The annual cycle of *S. franklinii* follows a pattern characteristic of most species of ground squirrels. The ground squirrel cycle begins in spring with emergence from winter hibernacula, and follows with breeding, gestation, lactation, juvenile emergence from natal burrows, fattening prior to hibernation, autumn immergence into hibernacula, and hibernation until the following spring (Michener 1984). The geographic distribution of *S. franklinii* extends from northwest Indiana to north-central Kansas in the south and north through portions of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta (Fig. 2).

In recent years, interest in *S. franklinii* has increased because of reported declines in some populations (Jones 1964, Schwartz and Schwartz 1981, Johnson and Choromanski-

Norris 1992, Benedict *et al.* 1996, Pergams and Nyberg 2001, Martin *et al.* 2003). These declines largely have been reported from the southern, and particularly the southeastern, portion of the squirrel's geographic range. As a result of declining populations, *S. franklinii* warranted an account in the 2003 Red List produced by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), where it was listed as "Vulnerable" (Pergams and Nyberg 2003). Currently, *S. franklinii* also is listed as State-Endangered in Indiana (*in writ.*, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Section 2004), State-Threatened in Illinois (*in writ.*, Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board 2004), and of Special Concern in Missouri (*in writ.*, Missouri Natural Heritage Program 2005) and Wisconsin (*in writ.*, Wisconsin Natural Heritage Working List, 2004).

According to Murie (1999), *S. franklinii* continues to be one of the least known of the North American ground squirrels. This fact is attributable, in part, to the squirrel's habit of occurring in areas of thick vegetation (Jones *et al.* 1983), which inhibits notice and observation of the animal—a fact that also contributes to the dual problem of accurately surveying for the animal and detecting declining populations. I first observed *S. franklinii* in small fragments of tallgrass prairie in eastern Nebraska and, after reviewing the most recent mammalian references for this region (Jones *et al.* 1983,

**Figure 1.** Franklin's ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*. Photo courtesy of Jim Rathert, Missouri Department of Conservation.



**Figure 2.** Geographic range map of *S. franklinii* based on a plot of capture localities for 732 museum specimens. The localities of museum specimens examined were converted into latitude and longitude coordinates, when not already given as such, by locating the collection sites on maps or in gazetteers. Bailey's (1998) ecoregion provinces for North America that occur within the geographic range of *S. franklinii* are labeled and overlaid on the map. States and provinces within the geographic range of *S. franklinii* are also labeled. Specimens examined are given in the Appendix.

1985), believed *S. franklinii* to be restricted primarily to tallgrass prairie environments. Jones (1985, p. 157) stated, "A species of the tall-grass prairie, Franklin's ground squirrel must be much less abundant than it was prior to breaking the prairie for agriculture." My views of *S. franklinii* as a species closely associated with the tallgrass prairie did not change until I reviewed all available literature concerning the animal, which was widely scattered, often fragmentary, and in some cases, unpublished. In contrast to my initial views, the available literature suggests *S. franklinii* is an animal primarily of savanna-like habitats, that is, habitats with both a grassy and woody component. My experiences live-trapping *S. franklinii* throughout its geographic range confirm this conclusion. Admittedly, this revelation is largely personal, as persons sharing the squirrel's northern distribution have long considered *S. franklinii* a "brushland" species. However, the perception of *S. franklinii* as a mammal closely tied to prairie habitat remains prevalent in the most recent literature focused on the conservation of the species (Pergams and Nyberg 2003, NatureServe 2004).

Here I present the results of a comprehensive literature review I undertook on *S. franklinii*. I focus principally on the habitat associations of *S. franklinii*, and secondarily on geographic distribution and abundance. Comments summarizing these facets of *S. franklinii* biology and their relevance to the conservation issues surrounding *S. franklinii* are presented in the "Discussion" section.

One purpose of this review is to provide a complete and readily accessible source of information on *S. franklinii* for wildlife biologists, regional land-managers, and others engaged in making decisions that may affect the conservation and management of the species. In addition to practical management applications that may be garnered from this review, it also is my hope that further work on *S. franklinii* will be conducted in order to fill in regional gaps in knowledge about this species; surveys to document extant populations of *S. franklinii* in Iowa, Kansas, southern Minnesota, and South Dakota are a place to start. Finally, I hope this review will inspire much-needed basic ecological research on *S. franklinii*. For example, what factors limit the squirrel's geographic range? How are habitat components actually utilized and what factors are responsible for population

fluctuations? In the next few decades it should no longer be said that *S. franklinii* remains one of the least known of North American ground squirrels.

## METHODS

I reviewed both published and unpublished materials. Unpublished materials included early reports of U.S. Biological Survey field personnel archived in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). All archived sources are from Series 1 and 2 of Record Unit 7176, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Field Reports from 1860–1961. I provide box and folder numbers for all individual references obtained from NMNH archived sources. Unpublished material also included state and federal reports, graduate theses, and information on museum specimen tags. Patterns of distribution, abundance, and habitat association of *S. franklinii* were reviewed by state and province in a chronological fashion from the oldest records to the most recent, in order to facilitate ease in finding information on a specific region. An account of *S. franklinii* from the late Pleistocene and Holocene was also included. Portions of original accounts were included throughout this review in order to avoid potential bias from paraphrasing.

## ACCOUNTS

### Pleistocene and Holocene

Eshelman and Hibbard (1981) tentatively reported *S. franklinii* from the Nash local fauna in Meade County, Kansas, on the basis of two teeth. Their site is bracketed between two layers of volcanic ash dated at 1.2 and 1.9 million years before present (YBP). Evidence suggests that this site was characterized by semi-arid prairie with cool habitat along a stream (Eshelman and Hibbard 1981). If accurately identified, the material from the Nash local fauna would represent the oldest records of *S. franklinii* of which I am aware.

The southernmost records of *S. franklinii* fossil material come from sites in northern Texas. Griffin (1989) reported *S. franklinii* from the Patterson Ranch local fauna in Knox County, Texas—a site from the middle of the Pleistocene Epoch dated at 600,000 YBP. Hibbard and Dalquest (1966) tentatively reported *S. franklinii* from the Vera local fauna, Knox

County, Texas—a site contemporaneous with the Patterson Ranch local fauna. Hibbard and Dalquest (1966) described the climate of the paleo-environment at their site as moist, subhumid, and frost-free.

Rhodes and Semken (1986) reported *S. franklinii* from sites in Mills County, Iowa, during the Wisconsinan, towards the end of the Pleistocene (Table 1). They described the late-Pleistocene habitat of this region of Iowa by stating, “Structurally, the vegetation probably was a parkland like that found today near the forest border in southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan” (Rhodes and Semken 1986, p. 109). They later continued (p. 123), “The Wisconsinan fauna best represents a mosaic of boreal hardwoods and conifers distributed in an open, meadowlike grassland or parkland during much of the glacial period.”

Slaughter and Hoover (1963) documented that *S. franklinii* still occurred as far south as northeastern Texas, approximately 650 km south of its current southern limit, during the late Pleistocene. They recorded it in the Ben Franklin local fauna, a site dated at approximately 9,000 – 11,000 YBP in Delta County, Texas (Slaughter and Hoover 1963). The paleo-environment of the site was characterized by numerous large marshes that bordered shallow streams of cool water (Slaughter and Hoover 1963). The most southwestern location of *S. franklinii*, from Beaver County in the Oklahoma Panhandle, also was recorded from a late Pleistocene site (Dalquest and Baskin 1992). According to Dalquest and Baskin (1992) the Elm Creek Site where *S. franklinii* was found “may have offered concealing cover bordering the zone of riparian woodland marginal to the stream” (p. 16). The Elm Creek Site was dated at approximately 11,000 YBP (Dalquest and Baskin 1992).

Although represented in the late Pleistocene, occurrence of *S. franklinii* in the fossil record increased during the Holocene (Table 1), principally in the lower Midwest. In most cases, *S. franklinii* material was associated with habitat consisting of woodland edges and openings (Purdue and Styles 1987) or occasionally riparian woodlands along glacial streams (Dalquest and Baskins 1992).

Within the last 1,000 – 1,500 YBP, *S. franklinii* has been found in association with human settlements. At the Phipps and Brewster cultural sites in western Iowa, Rhodes and Semken (1986) noted a high incidence of the plains

pocket gopher, *Geomys bursarius*, along with both the thirteen-lined ground squirrel, *S. tridecemlineatus*, and *S. franklinii*. These species “could have been systematically harvested both for subsistence and in an attempt to mitigate their impact on garden plots” (Rhodes and Semken 1986, p. 117).

### North America

Coues and Allen (1877) provided comments on *S. franklinii* that pertained to the species throughout its entire geographic range in North America (Fig. 2). Unfortunately, much of the geographic information they presented was not accurate (see information in the Missouri account). However, their account does provide insight into the historic habitat associations of *S. franklinii*. They stated that it “has a greater preference for thickets, low bushes and borders of timber” than *S. tridecemlineatus* (Coues and Allen 1877, p. 883). They also stated “though a common animal of the prairies of northern Illinois and Wisconsin, it was unknown even to Audubon and Bachman, as late as 1851” (Coues and Allen 1877, p. 882). More recently, Hall and Kelson (1959) quite succinctly stated that *S. franklinii* “occurs in areas of dense high (10 inches or more) grass or weedy vegetational cover and not on closely grazed or mowed fields” (p. 351). Murie (1999) provided an excellent summary account of the species for North America. He noted that they are found in “tall grass in disturbed areas, shrubland, and woodland edges” (p. 419) and that they are sporadically distributed, usually in small colonies, but occasionally with larger populations occurring near marshlands.

In recent reports focused on the conservation status of *S. franklinii* in North America, the species was listed as “Vulnerable” (Pergams and Nyberg 2003) and “Secure” (NatureServe 2004). (The NatureServe assessment of *S. franklinii* was last reviewed in 1996 (NatureServe 2004), prior to the evaluation done by Pergams and Nyberg (2003).) The assessment of Pergams and Nyberg (2003) “is based on declines in area of occupancy and extent of occurrence of *S. franklinii* of > 30% over both the past 10 years, and projections that these declines will continue over the next 10 years. Note is also taken of the extent of loss of the primary habitat of *S. franklinii*: tall- and midgrass prairie” (“Justification” section of Web document). The authors of the Nature-



Serve document state of *S. franklinii*'s habitat use: "Has a strong affinity for tallgrass prairies and the 'edge' between open areas and weeds. Also uses riparian areas (marsh edges), fields, and hedgerows. Generally avoids shortgrass habitats" ("Ecology and Life History" section of Web document). Those authors also suggest that the geographic range of *S. franklinii* may presently be larger than in historic times but likely is occupied by an overall smaller population (NatureServe 2004). Pergams and Nyberg based their ranking, in part, on results from a telephone/e-mail survey of state and provincial mammalogists in which they asked questions concerning the status of *S. franklinii* in their regions.

### Canada

Sowls (1948) provided a general review of *S. franklinii* in Canada, where the species reaches the northern limit of its geographic distribution (Fig. 2), from his own observations and those of others, particularly J. Dewey Soper. In an unpublished manuscript cited by Sowls and written by Soper in 1941 (that I could not locate), Soper stated that *S. franklinii* was "essentially an animal of the Transition Zone of the aspen parklands found between the treeless plains and the Canadian Zone forest" (in Sowls 1948, p. 115). Soper also stated that in southern Manitoba and northwest of that region, *S. franklinii* inhabited "the aspen poplar groves of the prairie, as well as the wooded lake ridges and the stream and marshland borders" but was "absent from the treeless and scrubless areas" (in Sowls 1948, p. 115).

More recently Banfield (1974) reiterated these earlier observations when he summarized the ecology of *S. franklinii* in Canada. He stated: "Franklin's ground squirrels inhabit wooded areas and the edges of woods. They are abundant in poplar bluffs of the aspen parkland that lies between the Great Plains and the coniferous forest. They have even penetrated the coniferous forest belt along the alder banks of streams and the patches of poplars in the evergreen forests, and frequently hunt in marshy areas that lie close to wooded ridges" (Banfield 1974, p. 126). Banfield (1974) stated that populations of the species fluctuate dramatically and average populations in good habitat range from 1.6 to 2.1 animals per hectare.

**Alberta.** Franklin's ground squirrel reaches the northwest limits of its geographic range in Alberta (Fig. 2). Records indicate that in Alberta *S. franklinii* has been associated most commonly with aspen parkland habitat where it ranges from locally abundant to absent (Table 2). In addition to the accounts cited in Table 2, other sources supplement the current knowledge of *S. franklinii* in Alberta. The earliest account of the species from the province known to me comes from J. Alden Loring from 1894. Loring's account (*in lit.*, NMNH archives, Box 117, Folder 5) from September of that year from "South Edmonton" stated, "A single specimen was taken a short distance from town" and "They are said not to be very common."

During the 1960s and to a greater extent the 1970s, several publications appeared that tangentially referenced the occurrence of *S. franklinii* in Alberta. These included publications on the food habits of raptorial birds (Meslow and Keith 1966, McInville and Keith 1974) and on the parasites of ground squirrels (Hilton and Mahrt 1971, 1972; Tobon *et al.* 1976). For the purpose of this review, these studies simply provide evidence of the occurrence of *S. franklinii* in Alberta at a particular place and time. Three of these studies indicated the presence of *S. franklinii* in the vicinity of Rochester, which is about 96 km north of Edmonton (Meslow and Keith 1966, McInville and Keith 1974, Tobon *et al.* 1976). Hilton and Mahrt collected *S. franklinii* from the Innisfree area (Hilton and Mahrt 1971) and from four sites in central Alberta (for which they provided a map only with no specific locations); three sites were located between Edmonton and the Saskatchewan border, and one was located roughly between Edmonton and Calgary (Hilton and Mahrt 1972).

Keith and Cary (1991) reported on population trends of *S. franklinii* that they observed coincident with a study on population cycles of snowshoe hare, *Lepus americanus*, conducted in the Rochester area during 1965–1975. They set unbaited traps along *L. americanus* runways in blocks of primarily aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) forest (Keith and Meslow 1966). During the course of their study, 236 *S. franklinii* were captured as incidental species. The primary incidental capture among mammalian species was the red squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*, which was caught 1,820 times (Keith and Cary 1991), further indicating the wooded nature of

Continued on page 9

Table 1. Late Pleistocene (until 13,000 YBP) and Holocene (13,000 YBP to current time) sites from the Midwest where Franklin’s ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, material was recovered. Descriptions of the hypothesized habitat at the site are included when available.

Site name	Location	Estimated time period (YBP)	Hypothesized habitat	Reference
Craigmile	Mills Co., IA	23,240 +/- 535	“The high relative frequency of meadow and grassland ecotypes indicates that extensive boreal grasslands, primarily moist meadows, dominated the landscape. The remaining taxa show that mixed groves of deciduous and coniferous trees with their brushy margins persisted on favorable exposures and provided a weak mosaic of boreal and cool/mesic habitats” (p. 108).	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Waubonsie	Mills Co., IA	14,800 +/- 1000	Boreal grasslands with increased brushland and forest edge.	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Kimmswick	Jefferson Co, MO	12,000–11,000	Cultural site. Species indicate a mix of open and closed, forested habitat.	Purdue and Styles 1987
Elm Creek	Beaver Co., OK	11,410 +/- 410	“The Elm Creek Site may have offered concealing cover bordering the zone of riparian woodland marginal to the stream” (p. 16).	Dalquest and Baskin 1992
Modoc Rock Shelter	Randolph Co., IL	10,000–8,500	Some species indicative of open habitat, but the majority are associated with forest or forest edge.	Purdue and Styles 1987
Dows	Franklin Co., IA	9380 +/- 130	Cool, moist, open deciduous forest with more effective precipitation than today.	Semken and Falk 1987
Cherokee Sewer site, Horizon I	Cherokee Co., IA	6,350	Upland prairie with a gallery forest along major watercourses.	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Coffey	Pottawatomie Co., KS	5163–5270	Most species at site associated with eastern forests. Floodplain forests present, attested to by <i>Celtis</i> sp. (hackberry), <i>Fraxinus</i> sp. (ash), <i>Ulmus</i> sp. (elm), <i>Acer</i> sp. (maple or boxelder), <i>Populus</i> sp. (cottonwood), and <i>Salix</i> sp. (willow). Upland forest was reduced and replaced with short or mixed-grass vegetation.	Davis 1987
Rainbow site, cultural horizons A & C,	Plymouth Co., IA	A = 1760–1695 C = 1410–1350	For both time periods habitat consisted of woodlands, stream, stream-edge and grassland characterized as tallgrass parkland.	Rhodes and Semken 1986

Table 1 continued

Site name	Location	Estimated time period (YBP)	Hypothesized habitat	Reference
Oakwood Lakes	Brookings Co., SD	1650–1050	A long-term woodland occupation. Grassland association.	Semken and Falk 1987
Pleasant Ridge	Mills Co., IA	1450 +/- 90	More arid than modern Missouri Valley.	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Phipps	Cherokee Co., IA	1140–600	Complex, multicomponent village. Mesic.	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Brewster	Cherokee Co., IA	1025–750	Gallery forest, prairie, marsh, permanent water. Cultural site.	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Wittrock	O'Brien Co., IA	980–525	Floodplain village.	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Chan-ya-ta	Buena Vista Co., IA	900	Prairie association.	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Solomon River	Mitchell Co., KS	860 +/- 80	Small farming hamlet in a mesic grassland setting.	Davis 1987
14ML15 Glenwood	Mills Co., IA	852–698	Village and nonvillage. "A cool, damp environment, which supported both meadows and forests, was present on the floodplains; valley slopes were characterized by well-drained woodlands which graded upslope into a shrubby zone and finally into an upland prairie" (p. 120).	Rhodes and Semken 1986
Bill Packer	Sherman Co., NE	850–750	Similar to following account.	Semken and Falk 1987
Schmidt	Howard Co., NE	830–790	Central Plains Tradition earth lodge village. "The Schmidt l.f. is most representative of a riverine community with an open gallery forest/meadow association along the flood plain, bordered by a tall-grass prairie on the slopes and a shorter-grass prairie on the uplands" (p. 209).	Semken and Falk 1987
Cahokia	St. Clair Co., IL	800–400	Information not available.	Purdue and Styles 1987
Milford	Dickinson Co., IA	250	Information not available.	Rhodes and Semken 1986

Table 2. Notes on Franklin’s ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, in Alberta.

Locality	Habitat	Abundance	Citation
Edmonton area	“They frequented brushy tracts and the borders of cultivated fields” (p. 165).	“It is abundant along the road from a few miles north of Edmonton, Alberta to Sturgeon River” (p. 165).	Preble 1908
Alberta general	“we had a glimpse of a Franklin’s ground squirrel as it scampered into an aspen bluff beside the trail” (p. 103) “several sources indicated that it was more likely to occur on the brushy wet slopes of Pleasant Valley than anywhere else” (p. 107) “I had also reports of its occurrence in the region of Raft Lake, where it visits the portable graineries drawn up near the woods” (p. 107).	“at Isaly is nearly absent” (p. 106).	Soper 1921
Alberta general	“The more common tracts of occupation are located in poplar 'bluffs' and shrubby grasslands of scattered prairies in parklands of the Transition Zone. It also invades grassy forest glades, borders of fields and meadows, dry marshes and sloughs, roadsides and railway tracks” (p. 142).	“In some parts of Alberta they are tolerably common, but local dispersal is often spotty with noticeable scarcity, or apparent absence, in different localities” (p. 143). “The species appears to be slowly extending its range west and north with the expansion of settlement” (p. 142).	Soper 1964
Miquelon Lake Park Prov.	area around the garbage pit, surrounded by aspen woodland habitat	“Density of adults varied between 1.25 and 2.50 per ha (0.4 to 0.8 per acre)” (p. 337).	Murie 1973
Alberta general	“aspen parkland belt, especially along the forest edge, where there may be dense grasses” (p. 88).	“It is considered uncommon here but the status is difficult to determine. It may be numerous in some areas...it is not a conspicuous member of the mammal community” (p. 88).	Smith 1993

the study site. Keith and Cary (1991) showed clear fluctuations in the capture rate of *S. franklinii* during their study period, including a time when the population fell “precipitously” (p. 375). The sharp decline in the *S. franklinii* population was roughly coincident with declines in both *T. hudsonicus* and the northern flying squirrel, *Glaucomys sabrinus*, populations. Keith and Cary (1991) reported speculation (from Erlien and Tester 1984—see the Minnesota account) that these declines, which occurred after *L. americanus* declines, may have been the result of prey-switching behavior by predators of *L. americanus*.

Sargeant *et al.* (1993) conducted a study on predators that affect duck production in the Prairie Pothole region, which includes a small portion of Alberta. Throughout this review, I refer to their results as they pertain to *S. franklinii*, which are summarized in Table 3. Their data primarily reflect the occurrence of *S. franklinii* in a particular region with some information on relative abundance (see Table 3). The authors do not provide specific information on habitat use but, instead, present an overview of the physiographic characteristics of all of their study sites. Most (21 of 33) of their study sites occurred in the prairie zone within the Prairie Pothole region, with the remainder (12 of 33) falling within the aspen parkland zone (Sargeant *et al.* 1993). Sites were composed of croplands (average coverage 54%), grasslands (25%), wetlands (13%), woodlands (3%), and additional odd areas or barrens (5%) (Sargeant *et al.* 1993). Cultivated areas included small grains, sunflower, corn, and other row crops (Sargeant *et al.* 1993). Grassland areas usually were grazed by livestock, and most study areas included occupied or abandoned farmsteads (Sargeant *et al.* 1993). Trees were found in each study area but were most numerous in areas within the aspen parkland zone, where quaking aspen trees (*P. tremuloides*), with hazelnut (*Corylus* sp.) or willow (*Salix* spp.) understory, were prevalent around wetlands and in small woodlots (Sargeant *et al.* 1993). Within the prairie zone, trees were usually in single-row shelterbelts in fields or in multi-row windbreaks at farmsteads (Sargeant *et al.* 1993).

In 1983 Sargeant *et al.* (1993) found *S. franklinii* in Alberta at their Holden and Hay Lakes study sites, both of which were in the aspen parkland zone (Table 3). Relative to

other sites in their study (which were located throughout the Prairie Pothole region), at these locales *S. franklinii* was ranked as “scarce” (Sargeant *et al.* 1993, Table 3). Both sites contained woodlots up to 0.65 km<sup>2</sup> (Sargeant *et al.* 1993).

**Manitoba.** Franklin’s ground squirrel has been documented in Manitoba (Fig. 1) since at least 1882 (Seton 1910). It often has been referred to as a common or plentiful species (Bird 1927; Green 1932; Soper 1946, 1961a). However, as Sowls (1948) stated, local populations tend to be variable in size over time (see also Table 4). When present, *S. franklinii* occurs at the interface of woodlands and grasslands where there is often an ecotone composed of various shrubby species (Table 4). In areas of pure grassland, the species is usually limited to isolated patches of woody habitat.

J.A. McLeod (1933) conducted a survey of parasites found in species of *Spermophilus* (then *Citellus*) within Manitoba. Although he provided a thorough review of the parasites, he included virtually no information on the hosts, with one notable exception. For the three species of squirrels he examined (*S. tridecemlineatus*, *S. franklinii*, and *S. richardsonii*), he reported years of peak abundance based on observations of farmers and naturalists within the province. For *S. franklinii*, years of peak abundance occurred in 1912, 1917, 1923, 1927, and 1932 (McLeod 1933). McLeod (1933) also reported that squirrel populations experienced sharp declines between years of peak abundance.

Sowls’ (1948) study of *S. franklinii* at Delta Marsh in Manitoba remains one of the most thorough to date. He found *S. franklinii* primarily on a wooded ridge bordering a lake and in small, isolated, tree-covered islands set in stands of reeds, *Phragmites communis*; occasionally, they were found in pure stands of these reeds (Sowls 1948). He reported extreme population fluctuations of *S. franklinii* at Delta Marsh. In 1938, a year of peak abundance, he reported “two boys with .22 rifles were able to kill fourteen in less than an hour without moving from one spot. Such numbers have not been observed since” (Sowls 1948, p. 115). Sowls (1948) wrote that between 1939 and 1942 an observer could see “about six per mile along the ridge road” (p. 115). However, by 1943 they were so uncommon at Delta Marsh

Continued on page 12

Table 3. All data presented in the table below are from the study by Sargeant *et al.* (1993) on predators that affect duck production in the Prairie Pothole Region. As in Sargeant *et al.* (1993), study sites marked with an asterisk (\*) occur in the aspen parkland zone, those unmarked occur in the prairie zone. Ranks indicate the relative abundance of Franklin's ground squirrels, *Spermophilus franklinii*, at sites as follows: 1=scarce, 2=uncommon, 3=uncommon, and 4=numerous. Percent habitat coverage data are derived from Table 1 in Sargeant *et al.* (1993). Observation rate data are from Appendix Table 10 and data on captures and percent of units with captures are from Appendix Table 11, also in Sargeant *et al.* (1993). Attempts to trap and remove *S. franklinii* occurred only at three study sites, all in Minnesota and North Dakota; those data are from Appendix Table 3 in Sargeant *et al.* (1993). Sargeant *et al.* (1993) utilized 33 study sites, only 31 of those fell within the geographic range of *S. franklinii*, of those, only the 24 where *S. franklinii* was recorded are included in the table below.

Study Site Location	Rank	Percent habitat coverage					Franklin's ground squirrels				
		Cropland	Grassland	Woodland	Wetland	Other	Year	Observation Rate <sup>1</sup>	Captures <sup>2</sup> Units with captures (%) <sup>3</sup>	# Trapped and removed <sup>4</sup>	
CANADA											
Alberta											
Hay Lakes*	1	44	23	10	16	7	1983	6	2	20	-
							1984	0	0	0	-
Holden*	1	45	24	7	17	7	1983	6	2	10	-
Manitoba											
Cartwright	2	66	19	2	7	6	1983	10	0	0	-
Moore Park*	3	62	8	6	14	10	1983	61	9	60	-
							1984	16	23	80	-
Saskatchewan											
Ceylon	1	56	31	0.5	9	3.5	1983	0	1	10	-
							1984	2	0	0	-
Craik	1	84	3	1	7	5	1984	3	0	0	-
							1985	3	0	0	-
Earl Grey*	4	80	2	4	8	6	1985	1	33	30	-
Goodwater	2	50	36	0.5	9	4.5	1983	5	10	40	-
Hanley*	3	70	11	2	11	6	1983	9	42	90	-
							1984	6	45	90	-
							1985	9	25	70	-
Inchkeith*	2	71	10	4	5	10	1984	10	19	50	-
							1985	12	14	40	-
Leask*	1	40	26	16	12	6	1984	1	5	30	-
							1985	0	2	10	-
Shamrock	1	59	29	0.5	7	4.5	1983	0	0	0	-
							1984	0	1	10	-
							1985	2	0	0	-

Table 3 continued

Study Site Location	Rank	Percent habitat coverage				Year	Franklin's ground squirrels:			
		Cropland	Grassland	Woodland	Wetland		Observation Rate <sup>1</sup>	Captures <sup>2</sup>	Units with captures (%) <sup>3</sup>	# Trapped and removed <sup>4</sup>
Yorkton*	2	45	25	14	11	5	1985	6	5	30
<b>U. S.</b>										
<b>Minnesota</b>										
Hawley*	1	45	24	12	14	5	1987	0	-	-
							1988	1	-	-
Hittisdal*	2	61	12	6	17	4	1988	6	-	-
Lake Park*	1	57	17	5	17	4	1987	5	-	0
							1988	0	-	0
<b>North Dakota</b>										
Eldridge	1	81	6	2	9	2	1987	2	-	12
							1988	3	-	4
Fredonia	1	12	37	0.5	46	4.5	1987	8	-	13
							1988	3	-	7
Jud	1	58	21	1	14	6	1987	8	-	-
							1988	0	-	-
Kulm	1	33	43	1	19	4	1988	2	-	-
Litchville	1	54	20	2	20	4	1987	3	-	-
							1988	0	-	-
Sharon	2	79	7	0.5	10	3.5	1983	12	1	10
Streeter	1	40	38	0.5	14	7.5	1983	2	4	30
<b>South Dakota</b>										
Parkston	1	47	40	1	7	5	1983	2	0	-

<sup>1</sup>=Average number (x 10<sup>3</sup>) of places (defined as a 150-m diameter area) per hour one or more individuals were seen.  
<sup>2</sup>=Refers to the total number of individuals captured at a study site location in early July in 196–200 trap days (mean = 199.8).  
<sup>3</sup>=Refers to percent of 2.6 km<sup>2</sup> units within each study site (10 units per site) in which *S. franklinii* was captured.  
<sup>4</sup>=No information on trapping effort is available. Trapping occurred from early April to late June on sites ranging from 63–303 ha.

that a colleague of Sowls' claimed to have seen fewer than a dozen during the course of the summer and in 1946 Sowls, himself, recorded fewer than two dozen squirrels during the entire summer.

Iverson and Turner (1972) studied *S. franklinii* at the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment (located approximately 120 km northeast of Winnipeg). Their study population occupied disturbed patches in an old field that was bordered on two sides by aspen forest (Iverson and Turner 1972). Lynch (1972), whose study at Delta Marsh included *S. franklinii* in a suite of predators of duck nests, did not include specific information on the habitat use by the species—although it may be inferred from other accounts of *S. franklinii* from the region (Sowls 1948; Tamsitt 1962). He did provide estimates of density for 1966, stating that *S. franklinii* ranged from 0.69 to 0.93 individuals per hectare (Lynch 1972). Wrigley (1974) found *S. franklinii* to be rare in his study area in the sandhills regions of southwestern Manitoba near Oak Lake and Margaret. Of those *S. franklinii* trapped, three were found by a small maple tree (*Acer* sp.) in an area composed largely of silverberry (*Elaeagnus commutata*) and snowberry shrubs (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), and two were found in an area of Saskatoon shrubs (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) (Wrigley 1974).

Two studies on parasites that occurred at Birds Hill Provincial Park in south-central Manitoba provide additional information on habitat associations and abundance of *S. franklinii* in Manitoba (Burachynsky and Galloway 1985, Reichardt and Galloway 1994). Burachynsky and Galloway (1985) caught greater numbers of *S. franklinii* in a study plot composed principally of grasses and shrubs (which were up to 3 m high), bordered by aspen woodland (28 and 30 individuals in 1979 and 1980, respectively), than another study plot composed primarily of aspen woodland, with lesser amounts of habitat in grass and shrubs (16 individuals in both 1979 and 1980). It is worth noting that the aspen woodland was dense enough to provide little understory, due to a large amount of leaf litter and little light penetration (Burachynsky and Galloway 1985). Reichardt and Galloway (1994) captured *S. franklinii* in habitat they characterized as aspen-oak parkland, which included trembling aspen (*P. tremuloides*), bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), and various shrub species. In 1982 these researchers captured 36 individual squirrels (95 total squirrel

captures in 552 trap days), and in 1983 they captured 40 individual squirrels (161 captures in 504 trap days).

Sargeant *et al.* (1993) recorded *S. franklinii* from study sites located in proximity to Moore Park and Cartwright in southwest Manitoba (Table 3). In their study, the highest observation rate of *S. franklinii*, out of all 33 study sites, occurred at Moore Park (Sargeant *et al.* 1993). Sargeant *et al.* (1993) ranked *S. franklinii* as “common” at Moore Park, which was in the aspen parkland zone, and “uncommon” at Cartwright, which was in the prairie zone (Table 3).

Hare (2004) studied kin discrimination in *S. franklinii* near Delta Marsh, where the species continues to persist and be utilized as a study organism.

Of note, one early reference about *S. franklinii* in the Aweme area asserted that, “[It] does more harm during the period of its activity than any other member of the genus” (Criddle 1929, p. 157). This statement presumably refers to the propensity of *S. franklinii* to consume agricultural products. Both Sowls (1948) and Lynch (1972) documented *S. franklinii* as a predator of duck nests.

**Ontario.** The distribution of *S. franklinii* in Ontario is limited to the extreme western edge of the province (Fig. 2), in proximity to both the Manitoba and Minnesota borders. The range of *S. franklinii* appears to have expanded eastward into Ontario within the last century, presumably because of human modifications of habitat, specifically the clearing of land for agriculture (Peterson 1966). Snyder (1938) recorded the first specimens of *S. franklinii* collected from the province. He stated, “Apparently this animal is a fairly recent arrival in the district—certainly it was not present when the area was opened up for agriculture” (p. 169). He reported that the first visual observation of *S. franklinii* in Ontario came from the Rainy River area in June 1925. Snyder (1938) implicated modification of the land in the spread of *S. franklinii* in Ontario when he stated, “As further evidence of its recent arrival it can be said that it is rapidly spreading eastward over cultivated sections. It now [1936] occurs at Emo, which indicates an advance of some twenty-five or thirty miles in seven years” (p. 169). He included *S. franklinii* in a suite of mammals characteristic



of western prairie regions. No specific mention of the habitat surrounding his trapping locations for *S. franklinii* were given, but the area as a whole was a mixture of small agricultural lands set in and among areas characterized by stands of aspen and spruce (Snyder 1938). Peterson (1966) recorded *S. franklinii* from the Kenora, Rainy River, and Fort Francis areas of Ontario, a distribution reiterated by Dobbyn (1994).

**Saskatchewan.** Franklin's ground squirrel occurs in the southern third of Saskatchewan, excepting the southwest corner of the province (Fig. 2). The original species description of *S. franklinii* was based on specimens collected by Sir John Richardson in Saskatchewan (Sabine 1822). Richardson (1829) described the location where these first specimens were collected by stating, "This animal was seen in the neighborhood of Carlton-house, where it lives in burrows dug in the sandy soil, amongst the little thickets of brushwood that skirt the plain" (p. 168). In 1895, J. A. Loring (*in lit.*, NMNH archives, Box 122, Folder 21) reported *S. franklinii* to be common at Wingard, which—according to his notes—was located approximately six miles (9.7 km) northeast of Carlton-house. He stated, "They were found to be quite thick in the cooleys that run into the river" (*in lit.*, NMNH archives, Box 122, Folder 21). Loring recorded the following information regarding the vegetation of the area: "The country is rolling and covered with patches of thick poplar and quaking asp[en]. Many cooleys run into the river [and] in these may be found two species of poplars[,] *Populus angustifolia* and *Populus tremuloides* besides numerous scrub bushes in which willows predominate. A straggling spruce is found here and there as are also birch trees but they are both rare" (*in lit.*, NMNH archives, Box 122, Folder 22). In the same year, Loring recorded the occurrence of *S. franklinii* at Indian Head in Assiniboia (now southern Saskatchewan). He stated, "Three were taken in Red Fox cooley and several others [were] heard and seen. They seemed to prefer the scrub on the banks of the stream" (*in lit.*, NMNH archives, Box 122, Folder 21). In his vegetation notes of the area he recorded the following, "Indian Head...is situated on a beautiful rolling prairie and is a fine farming district. With the exception of a few bunches of willow here and there, no timber is found outside of Red Fox cooley where

*Populus tremuloides* and *Populus angustifolia* are abundant being found in small groves" (*in lit.*, NMNH archives, Box 122, Folder 22). From the earliest accounts of *S. franklinii* in Saskatchewan, this species was associated most commonly with habitat that contained some measure of a woody component either in the form of trees or shrubs. Specimens collected by F. Banfield near Emma Lake (Table 5) in 1939 further illustrate this association.

Soper (1951) reported some of the northernmost records of *S. franklinii* in Saskatchewan, at Prince Albert National Park, and detailed the association of the species with deciduous and coniferous woodlands. He observed two individuals in a small area of black spruce muskeg, others in a poplar woods near open grassland, and found scattered individuals in the "forest-prairie" country in the southern end of the park (Soper 1951, p. 29). Beck (1958) stated that the species was widespread in Saskatchewan, but most abundant in the "bushy regions" (p. 28). In regards to prevalence, Soper (1951), again reporting from Prince Albert National Park, found its distribution "notably inconsistent...in many favourable localities it appeared to be absent" (p. 29). Soper (1961b) reiterated this point a decade later for the region of southern Saskatchewan when he said, "Local dispersal and numbers are noticeably irregular—sometimes common, scarce or apparently wanting" (p. 31).

I gleaned additional information concerning *S. franklinii* in Saskatchewan from the parasitology literature. From May to August in 1976 and 1977, 44 *S. franklinii* were collected near Saskatoon and examined for parasites (Leighton and Wobeser 1978). McGee (1980) examined 46 *S. franklinii* for parasites from Saskatchewan but did not provide additional details on collecting localities. Some of the specimens he examined may have included those collected by Leighton and Wobeser (1978) because the time frame is similar. In 1986 and 1987, Durham *et al.* (1988) examined a total of 13 *S. franklinii*: 11 from the vicinity of St. Denis (40 km east of Saskatoon) and 2 from near the South Saskatchewan River on the outskirts of Saskatoon. None of these parasitological studies provide specific information on the habitat from which the squirrels were collected.

The highest populations of *S. franklinii* found by Sargeant *et al.* (1993) in their study

Table 4. Notes on Franklin’s ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, in Manitoba.

Locality	Habitat	Abundance	Citation
Manitoba	“Its chief region ...is the poplar country from Pembina to Pelly” (p. 373). “[found] frequenting the edges of thick dry undergrowth near woodlands or along hedges” (p. 373).	“In 1882, we, in Manitoba, reckoned this the rarest of the Ground-squirrels; since then it has increased... while the Striped Ground-squirrel has decreased, so that now this is much the more numerous of the two” (p. 375).	Seton 1910
Spruce Woods Forest & Game Preserve	Found in the deciduous forest community composed almost entirely of aspen ( <i>Populus tremuloides</i> ).	Listed as plentiful, along with other mammals in a long list.	Bird 1927
Manitoba general	“[They] range primarily in the Transition Zone, but overlap into ‘pure’ Canadian types along the northern fringe of their range in Canada. They are animals of the ‘edge.’ Their favorite habitat is the area where woods and open country meet” (p. 134).	“population densities are extremely variable over a period of years and cyclic declines and rises are in evidence” (p. 135).	Sowls 1948
Riding Mountain National Park.	“it resorts to habitats in both Transition and Canadian Life zones” (p. 22)	“This species of ground squirrel does not appear to be as commonly dispersed as the two referred to above [ <i>S. tri-decemlineatus</i> and <i>S. richardsonii</i> ]” (p. 22).	Soper 1953
Delta Marsh	“This species was the only squirrel inhabiting the wooded lake ridges and stream and marshland borders south of Lake Manitoba” (p. 74).	“When trapping started in early June only a few adult animals were present. However, by late July juvenile and young adult animals were seen in large numbers” (p. 74).	Tamsitt 1962

Table 5. Museum specimens of Franklin’s ground squirrels, *Spermophilus franklinii*, collected by F. Banfield from Saskatchewan.

Date	Museum	Museum Number	Locality	Collector	Notes from museum tag
1 July 1939	CM	18202	Emma Lake	F. Banfield (#250)	“dry, mixed woods”
5 July 1939	CM	18204	Emma Lake	F. Banfield (#267)	“bushes on edge of grassy flats”
29 June 1939	UMMZ	83626	Prince Edward Dist., Emma Lake	F. Banfield (#242)	“grassy flats on edge of spruce woods”
1 July 1939	UMMZ	83627	Prince Edward Dist., Emma Lake	F. Banfield (#253)	“forest edge on grassy flats”
6 July 1939	UMMZ	83628	Prince Edward Dist., Emma Lake	F. Banfield (#272)	“bushes on edge of grassy flats”

on predators that affect duck production were in Saskatchewan. Specifically, they found *S. franklinii* at 9 of 10 sites in Saskatchewan from 1983–1985 at localities near Ceylon, Craik, Earl Grey, Goodwater, Hanley, Inchkeith, Leask, Shamrock, and Yorkton (Sargeant *et al.* 1993 and Table 3). The two sites in Saskatchewan where *S. franklinii* was most prevalent included Earl Grey and Hanley; the Earl Grey study site was the only locality in the entire study where *S. franklinii* was ranked as “numerous” (Sargeant *et al.* 1993 and Table 3).

### United States

Bailey (1893) provided one of the earliest accounts of *S. franklinii* specific to the U.S. He declared, “Franklin’s *Spermophile* is characteristic of prairies and open country, is never found in heavy timber, and does not climb trees. The places usually selected for their holes are among tall grass, weeds, and scattered brush. Often they are found living along the edge of timber that adjoins the prairie or in small groves” (p. 51). Notes on the local abundance of *S. franklinii*, provided by Bailey (1893), are included in the accounts that follow.

**Illinois.** The earliest account of *S. franklinii* from Illinois (Fig. 2) that I found was R. Kennicott’s catalog of the animals of Cook County (Kennicott 1855). In that brief publication Kennicott said the following about *S. franklinii*: “Common. Gregarious, migratory. Found on the prairies throughout the state” (p. 579). Two years later, Kennicott published a more complete account of the mammals of Illinois in what has become a well-known work, “The Quadrupeds of Illinois, Injurious and Beneficial to the Farmer” (Kennicott 1857). In that publication, Kennicott said of *S. franklinii*, “It is far less numerous here than the striped *spermophile*, and appears to be a less abundant species wherever the two exist. It is observed to inhabit the thickets of low bushes, and the edges of the timber, more than the other, but does not occur in the woods” (p. 648). He provided one of the earliest accounts of variation in local abundance of *S. franklinii* when he stated, “In several instances, a company of a dozen or more have been observed to appear in a locality where none were seen the previous summer, and then to disappear after remaining there a year, or only a few weeks” (p. 648).

The relationship between *S. franklinii* and the human inhabitants of Illinois as illustrated by Kennicott (1857) may hint at one factor responsible for the unpredictable nature of the species’ local abundance. Apparently, *S. franklinii* often was considered an agricultural pest because it consumed newly planted corn and occasionally fed on poultry, either as eggs or chicks (Kennicott 1857). On one farm where *S. franklinii* was considered the guilty party, “a war of extermination was commenced. Several were shot, while others were killed with clubs, whereupon the survivors left, in a body, as suddenly as they had come, and were never seen again, nor could they be found upon any part of the farm” (p. 649). At least in parts of Illinois, the “wars of extermination” were successful. In 1892, G. Coleman (*in lit*, NMNH, Box 55, Folder 1) recounted, “An old farmer told me that fourteen years ago the gray and striped gophers were very numerous...but that they were now nearly all gone. He had not seen one this year.”

By 1910, accounts of *S. franklinii* in Illinois mentioned their close association with agricultural land. Wood (1910) relayed, “At present a necessary condition for their habitation seems to be the presence of some shelter, such as may be furnished by tall grass, or a field of clover, alfalfa, or grain” (p. 529). This statement reflects on the adaptability of *S. franklinii* as well as the changing landscape of Illinois. Wood (1910) ranked the habitats where *S. franklinii* occurred in Champaign County from greatest to least abundance as follows: moraine bluff, till plain, and cleared pasture. Interestingly, he did not list *S. franklinii* from his “wooded bluffs” or “groves” categories although he stated, “...I presume that they may be found in the borders of woodlands” (p. 530).

Cory (1912) added little new information about *S. franklinii* in Illinois inasmuch as his account of the species was extracted primarily from Kennicott (1857). He provided the following summary of *S. franklinii*’s distribution: “In Illinois it is found in scattered communities throughout the greater portion of the central and northern portion of the state” (Cory 1912, p. 145, 147). Mohr (1943) mapped the distribution of every ground squirrel he observed between 1931 and 1942 for the Illinois Natural History Survey and found *S. franklinii* limited to the northern two-thirds of the state. In this area Mohr stated, “...I have observed Franklin’s ground squirrels at almost as many

localities as woodchucks and have seen striped ground squirrels [*S. tridecemlineatus*] at two or three times as many localities" (p. 177). Anderson (1951) detailed *S. franklinii*'s presence in Fulton County in west-central Illinois as follows: "...[it] probably occurred throughout the county in prairie areas along railroads, highways, and in overgrown pastures" (p. 175). Anderson (1951) caught both *S. franklinii* and *S. tridecemlineatus* at her three trapping localities. Hoffmeister and Mohr (1957, p. 139) called *S. franklinii* "common" in the northern two-thirds of Illinois in what was originally the prairie region. Their brief account stated that *S. franklinii* was found in areas of tall, thick grass with more brush than those areas frequented by *S. tridecemlineatus* (Hoffmeister and Mohr 1957).

In the spring of 1954, many species of wildlife were affected deleteriously when dieldrin, a highly toxic chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticide, was employed against a local infestation of Japanese beetles, *Popillia japonica*, in the area of Sheldon, Illinois, along the Indiana border (Scott *et al.* 1959). According to Scott *et al.* (1959, p. 417), both *S. tridecemlineatus* and *S. franklinii*, which had been common in the area, suffered "virtually annihilative losses" in the wake of the insecticide application. Scott *et al.* (1959) reported that "some farmers expressed satisfaction that the dieldrin had freed their lands of ground squirrels" (p. 417). This account clearly indicated the potential negative effects that pesticide applications may have had on *S. franklinii* populations throughout much of their geographic range—where agricultural lands dominate—before the advent of stricter regulations concerning the use of these toxic chemicals.

Gray (1972) studied *S. franklinii* at the Illinois State University farm located near Normal, Illinois, in 1971 and 1972. He indicated that, in McLean County, *S. franklinii* was found mostly in hay fields and on embankments along railroad rights-of-way. In the early 1970s, McLean County was intensively farmed; idle land was limited to streambanks, roadsides, railroads, and small woodlands along streams (Gray 1972).

Van Petten and Schramm (1972) were the first researchers to strongly tie *S. franklinii* to tallgrass prairie habitat in Illinois. In their paper's introduction, they mentioned that *S. franklinii* inhabited tall grassy areas and im-

mediately followed that comment with, "This tall grass habitat preference suggests that it [*S. franklinii*] is a climax species of the tall grass prairie" (Van Petten and Schramm 1972, p. 166). They linked perceived declines of *S. franklinii* to prairie habitats when they stated "over much of the Midwest it is absent because of destruction of suitable habitat by mowing, grazing, and cultivation" (Van Petten and Schramm 1972, p. 166). Their study detailed the introduction of a transplanted population of *S. franklinii* at the Knox College Biological Field Station. Further studies on this introduced population resulted in publications that reiterated that *S. franklinii* preferred tallgrass prairie habitat (Krohne *et al.* 1973, Krohne and Schramm 1992).

Like the efforts by those at the Knox College Biological Field Station to establish a population of *S. franklinii* on the station's restored prairie, others introduced *S. franklinii* to Gensburg Markham Prairie located near a south-Chicago suburb (Panzer and Schipp 1986). This introduction was in response to concerns that the species was disappearing from the surrounding environments. Clearly, conservation concern existed for populations of *S. franklinii* in Illinois as early as the 1970s and 1980s. Because *S. franklinii* became strongly linked to tallgrass prairie habitat at this time, the disappearance of the prairie and the squirrel became linked.

Spurred on by reported population declines in *S. franklinii*, Lewis and Rongstad (1992) examined changes in the distribution of the species in Illinois and Wisconsin. They gathered reports of *S. franklinii* from 22 locations in 16 counties in Illinois in 1985 and 1986 and concluded that it had a "relatively stable range in Wisconsin and Illinois" (p. 60). Although they did not document a decline, and in fact stated that precise data to do so were lacking, they reported that many of their sources (from mail surveys) perceived a decline. Lewis and Rongstad (1992) speculated on possible reasons for the purported decline which included: 1) *S. franklinii* may never have been common in certain regions of Wisconsin and Illinois, 2) negative effects of changes in land-use, and 3) deleterious effects associated with isolation of fragmented populations.

Hoffmeister (1989) summarized the biology of *S. franklinii* in Illinois but provided little new information. He made no mention of the species abundance or rarity within the state but said

it preferred grasses of intermediate height.

In 1998 Joyce Hoffmann, a mammalogist for the Illinois Natural History Survey, searched for *S. franklinii* at 12 sites in east-central Illinois (9 sites in Champaign County and 3 sites in adjacent Vermilion and Piatt counties) to establish the current status of the species in the state (Hoffmann 1999). She trapped known localities of historic occurrence of the species. In 1,032 trap-days she captured only one adult male *S. franklinii* along an abandoned railroad right-of-way (Hoffmann 1999).

In a related endeavor, Martin *et al.* (2003) conducted a mail survey of 166 wildlife professionals in Illinois with the objective of assessing the status of *S. franklinii* throughout its historic range. Nine extant populations were reported in the mail survey, in addition to 44 possible populations (based on unconfirmed sightings). Mail survey results, coupled with historic records and current habitat, were used to select 26 sites for live-trapping surveys of *S. franklinii*. Martin *et al.* (2003) confirmed the presence of *S. franklinii* at only three trapping sites. One population occurred in Champaign County at a restored prairie and two populations, separated by only 3 km, occurred on the same railroad right-of-way in Vermilion County, on the Indiana border (Martin *et al.* 2003). Based on these results, Martin *et al.* (2003) concluded that *S. franklinii* has declined in Illinois, but they refrained speculation on the magnitude of the decline because of the inherent difficulties in surveying for this animal.

Pergams and Nyberg (2001) concluded *S. franklinii* had declined in the Chicago region based on the rate of museum specimen deposits, and linked the decline to loss of prairie habitat in the area. Based on their data and other recent data presented here, Pergams and Nyberg (2001) suggested that *S. franklinii* be placed on the Illinois list of Threatened and Endangered Species and, in February 2004, *S. franklinii* was listed as Threatened in Illinois (*in writ.*, Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board 2004).

Recent publications by Martin and Heske (2004, 2005), both based on the *S. franklinii* population found by Martin in Champaign County, contribute further to understanding *S. franklinii* in Illinois. In one study focused on *S. franklinii* burrow placement, the authors found that more than one-third of burrow systems were "within 5 m of trees, trash heaps

and buildings, whereas this habitat comprised only 9.5% of the study area" (Martin and Heske 2004, p. 229). Burrow systems also occurred disproportionately in drained soils covered by cool season grasses (Martin and Heske 2004). The authors noted that cool season grasses afford cover, forage, and nesting material at the time when the squirrels are emerging from hibernation.

In Martin and Heske (2005) a valuable glimpse into juvenile dispersal behavior in *S. franklinii* is provided. The authors reported the following: males dispersed further than females, both sexes may disperse over 1 km, agricultural fields with cover in the form of row crops may not be a hindrance to dispersal, but there is indication that for some individual *S. franklinii* roadways may serve as barriers. The authors suggest that further research on dispersal in *S. franklinii* is needed to inform management decisions concerning the species.

**Indiana.** The distribution of *S. franklinii* reaches its eastern limit in the northwestern corner of Indiana (Fig. 2). The earliest definitive record of *S. franklinii* in the state was in 1884, but the earliest reference may have been in 1819, as reported by Mumford and Whitaker (1982), who provided a detailed chronology of *S. franklinii* in Indiana. Bailey (1893) reported this squirrel from only two localities, both at the western edge of the state—Kentland and Earl Park. Hahn (1909) speculated that *S. franklinii* probably did not occur in more than five or six counties in Indiana. At Mount Ayr, Hahn (1909) found them "living about a stone pile in a field of oats" (p. 478). It was the only colony in the area. He commented further, "The animals were not afraid of traps and three were caught in a single trap, without bait, in two days" (Hahn 1909, p. 479).

M.W. Lyon, Jr. (1932) detailed the status of *S. franklinii* in Indiana in one of the earliest articles devoted solely to the species from any locality. Lyon (1932) believed that *S. franklinii* originally was limited to the prairie portion of Indiana because of its terrestrial nature but "with the clearing off of the timber and rendering much of the state an artificial prairie it...spread a few miles to the eastward" (p. 16). Lyon (1932) claimed that *S. franklinii* was "comparatively rare in Indiana" (p. 17). Probably for that reason he detailed all the animals he observed or that were reported to him within the state from 1930 to 1932. On 25 August

1930 he encountered a badly smashed and decomposing *S. franklinii* on a road in Pulaski County (Lyon 1932). That record may be the first account of a road-killed *S. franklinii*.

In his *Mammals of Indiana*, Lyon (1936) added little new information to his preceding account of *S. franklinii*. He reiterated their rarity in the state emphasized by his comments that "in counties where they are known to occur, it is often difficult to find persons who are familiar with them" (p. 186) and "on about three occasions have I seen it running across a road...while the Thirteen-Striped Ground-Squirrel is seen running across roads everywhere" (p. 187). He found the squirrels only in open fields and meadows.

Kirkpatrick and Conaway (1948) reported *S. franklinii* from new localities in Indiana, including a reputed colony along a railroad embankment located between Battle Ground and Ash Grove in Tippecanoe County. They speculated that *S. franklinii* seemed to have a preference for habitat provided by railroad fills (Kirkpatrick and Conaway 1948). Mumford (1969) summarized current records of *S. franklinii* in Indiana and restated the species' preference for habitat along railways. Whether that statement was based on personal observation or the previous account of Kirkpatrick and Conway (1948) is not certain. He reported the status of the species as uncommon to rare (Mumford 1969).

Mumford and Whitaker (1982) thoroughly reviewed the status of *S. franklinii* in Indiana. They reported *S. franklinii* from 16 contiguous counties in the northwest corner of the state, having observed the squirrel from 13 of those counties themselves (Mumford and Whitaker 1982). Like Lyon (1932, 1936), they found it difficult to find persons who had seen the squirrel or were at all familiar with it (Mumford and Whitaker 1982). Most observations of *S. franklinii* in Indiana occurred along roadsides or railroad embankments where the habitat was characterized by tall grass, weeds, and occasionally the presence of shrubs and small trees (Mumford and Whitaker 1982). They noted that, despite the presence of favorable habitat, *S. franklinii* had not expanded its range in Indiana to the degree that *S. tridecemlineatus* had.

In 1984, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) listed *S. franklinii* as a species of "special concern" because of its limited distribution in the state (in Johnson and

Choromanski-Norris 1992). That same year, the Indiana DNR began to assess the current distribution of *S. franklinii* in Indiana relative to its historic range in the state (Johnson and Choromanski-Norris 1992). The study, which occurred from 1984–1990, reported 120 individual *S. franklinii* captured from 370 surveyed sites, 139 total *S. franklinii* captures (including recaptures) in 5,161 trap days, and *S. franklinii* found at only 9.7% of sites surveyed in 9 of 16 historically occupied counties (Johnson and Choromanski-Norris 1992). Most captured squirrels (96/120) were found at railroad right-of-ways that comprised 80% of all survey sites (Johnson and Choromanski-Norris 1992). Johnson and Choromanski-Norris (1992) suggested that cooperative efforts between state agencies to manage right-of-ways for grassland habitat, and potential reintroductions of squirrels on state managed lands, might help the recovery of *S. franklinii* populations in Indiana.

Benjamin (1991) initiated a study of *S. franklinii* focused primarily on its habitat use in Indiana. He offered the following conclusions: "This study...showed that this species is not dependent on native prairie" (p. 48), and "This and previous studies suggest that vegetation characteristics alone do not determine habitat selection by *S. franklinii*" (p. 47). As a result of the preceding studies, *S. franklinii* was listed as "state endangered" in Indiana in 1990 (S. Johnson, Indiana DNR, *pers. comm.*).

In the summer of 1994, Lotter (1994) resurveyed 36 sites where *S. franklinii* had occurred according to Johnson and Choromanski-Norris (1992). She captured 29 *S. franklinii* in 1,635 trap days at 8 of 36 sites in 3 of 9 counties surveyed (Lotter 1994). She concluded that the geographic range of *S. franklinii* in Indiana had been "substantially" reduced due in part to dramatic habitat alteration of some sites (Lotter 1994, p. 7). One site was occupied by a new subdivision and another, at a railroad right-of-way, was severely disturbed when tracks were removed (Lotter 1994). In her words, the "reduction in range is most likely due to the loss of suitable habitat, due to changing farming practices and development of the northwest corner of the state" (Lotter 1994, p. 7).

**Iowa.** The earliest account of *S. franklinii* in Iowa that I found came from J.A. Allen (1871), who worked in the state in 1867. At that time he found the species "abundant" and noted that

“when very numerous they sometimes destroy acres of newly planted corn by eating the seed” (Allen 1871, p. 189–90). He continued, “During the spring months it is generally numerous, but after about the first of June is rarely observed, and all my efforts to obtain specimens, both in this state and in Illinois, where it is equally common, were ineffectual” (Allen 1871, p. 190).

In Council Bluffs in 1892, George Coleman (*in lit.* NMNH, Box 55, Folder 37) reported, “Both the striped and gray [*Spermophilus*] were here a few years ago but the boys have caught them all. At least none have been seen lately.” In contrast, Van Hyning and Pellet (1910) said they were common throughout the state. In a similar vein Ruthven and Wood (1912, p. 204) stated, “The species is less common than *C. tridecemlineatus* but is far from rare.” Spurrell (1917, p. 283) observed: “It is now common in clover and timothy fields; and when the hay is cut it removes to the grain fields and digs new burrows. It is very rarely found in pastures... this species was not as common in early days as it is now.”

In *The Rodents of Iowa* Stoner (1918) provided the most detailed, historic account of *S. franklinii* in Iowa.

“Franklin’s spermophile is an inhabitant of open prairies and is not found in timbered regions, although it often lives along the edges of timber and small groves. At Lake Okoboji it is quite common near the sparse woods and groves bordering the water, and has even taken up its abode near the buildings of the Lakeside Laboratory. In most places it is not as common as the striped spermophile although in a few localities it is reported as more common than that species (p. 36–37)... This species is more migratory in its habits than the striped spermophile; the males live a wandering life during the summer, and indeed pairs or even small companies of individuals frequently migrate from one locality to another; sometimes a pair will migrate from the wintering burrow to a breeding

burrow and perhaps winter in still another. This migratory habit may account for the reports received from various places to the effect that ‘this species was common here last summer, but I have seen only a very few this year (p. 37).’... Although this form is quite generally distributed throughout the state, in the driftless region of northeastern Iowa it is not commonly met with. It seems, however, to be working its way into this region from the north and west, and a few miles west of the hilly section it is fairly common. At Corning it is reported that this species did not appear until 1909; now it is abundant in that locality. In almost every locality visited Franklin’s spermophile is found; but its numbers are, in general, less than those of the striped spermophile (p. 37–38)... Franklin’s spermophiles have long been recognized as enemies of agricultural interests and the expedient of offering bounty has been resorted to in various counties in the hope of either exterminating them or materially reducing their numbers. These sporadic attempts have not met with any degree of success. Although it is apparent that this species is recognized as more destructive in its habits than the striped spermophile, the added incentive to its capture in the way of a larger bounty offered has proved of no avail” (p. 39).

Information about *S. franklinii* in Iowa during the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is rare. Gabrielson (1921) stated the species was common in Marshall County, and Scott (1937) indicated it was found statewide after having spread into areas opened by agriculture. Both Errington (1937) and Snead and Hendrickson (1942) found *S. franklinii* remains in badger scats from Iowa. Polder (1965) thought *S. franklinii* probably was present in every county in Iowa in “favored habitats such as

hay fields, oats fields, weedy fence rows and native prairie” (p. 202). He speculated further that the “...border zone between low wet soils formed under *Spartina* and soils formed under *Andropogon* appears to be the optimum habitat both on native prairie and on cultivated lands” (Polder 1965, p. 202), but provided no support for this statement.

Bowles (1975) reported that *S. franklinii* was found locally throughout the state. Accordingly, he stated: “Prior to the settlement of Iowa, the Franklin’s ground squirrel was common only in the tall-grass prairie of the central and western parts of the state. Clearing of forested areas in southern Iowa and the planting of hay crops undoubtedly increased available habitat” (Bowles 1975, p. 65). More recently Bowles (1981) listed *S. franklinii* as a mammal species declining in Iowa and attributed the decline to loss of significant areas of tallgrass prairie habitat.

**Kansas.** The southwestern limit of *S. franklinii*’s distribution is reached in Kansas (Fig. 2) where the squirrel is uncommon and, when present, most often is associated with brushy, grassland areas (Table 6). In the earliest reports of *S. franklinii* in Kansas, the squirrel’s impacts on agriculture were the focus. A portion of a letter by L. L. Dyche, biology professor at the University of Kansas, sent to Vernon Bailey in 1888 stated: “Not much damage is done by this species...except in certain localities...The squirrels dig up the corn (and sometimes other seeds) soon after it is planted in the spring and in the fall do some damage by burrowing under corn shocks...We killed many of them with guns and tried to poison them, with apparently very little success” (Bailey 1893, p. 52–3).

Remington Kellogg (1915) prepared his Master’s thesis on the mammals of Kansas and provided a detailed account of *S. franklinii*. Unfortunately it is not clear how much of that account was based on observations from Kansas. Whereas Kellogg (1915) examined only four *S. franklinii* specimens from Kansas, he frequently observed the species in North Dakota in the summer that preceded the writing of his thesis (see Table 8). Nevertheless, his comments provide an historic insight

that warrants repeating here. He found that *S. franklinii* “is not common in the open prairie country as it depends on the cover of brush and timber” (Kellogg 1915, p. 162) and reinforced Dyche’s earlier observations with the following comments: “Franklin’s spermophile is exceedingly destructive to corn. They dig up the corn after it is planted in the spring and eat out the kernel. This frequently necessitates replanting. In some localities their depredations are so destructive that the farmers sow the fields with poisoned corn before planting” (Kellogg 1915, p. 163).

In contrast to the abbreviated commentary most authors afforded *S. franklinii* in Kansas, Andersen and Fleharty (1967) provided specific details on the habitat associations of a *S. franklinii* population they located in northeastern Jewell County in 1964. The habitat was dominated by smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) over two feet in height, but also contained Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*), Indian hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*), smartweed (*Polygonum* spp.), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*). Along one edge of the area were several wild plum (*Prunus* sp.) thickets (Andersen and Fleharty 1967). They collected two squirrels, and found seeds of smartweed, wild plum, and beetle remains in their stomach contents. An opened cache of wild plums was located near one of the burrows (Andersen and Fleharty 1967).

By 1973, Platt *et al.* (1973) listed *S. franklinii* as rare in Kansas and indicated that isolated populations occurred in relict areas of tallgrass prairie. In an effort to supplement the squirrel’s habitat needs, the authors tried to encourage landowners to leave a swath of native grass around plowed fields. They also encouraged the highway department to permit native prairie cover to develop along roadsides and to minimize mowing (Platt *et al.* 1973).

**Minnesota.** Vernon Bailey, active in the formative years of the U.S. Biological Survey, provided many of the earliest accounts of *S. franklinii*. He first observed the species at Elk River, Minnesota, in 1872 (Bailey 1893). They



were scarce at that location, and he saw only 6 to 8 individuals a year for the 14 summers he lived there (Bailey 1893). Notes on *S. franklinii* from Bailey and others employed by the U.S. Biological Survey are in Table 7. At other localities in Minnesota, *S. franklinii* was more common. At Ortonville in Big Stone County in 1887, they were abundant and Bailey (1888, p. 438) wrote, "A few are scattered over the prairie, but in the timber near the lake, and in the ravines, there are a great many... On the prairies they are mostly found near grain-fields or in marshy places." In the same year at Brown's Valley in Traverse County, he wrote, "Occasionally found on the prairie, and very numerous all over the valley, even in town" (Bailey 1888, p. 439).

As early as 1892, Herrick (1892) recognized declining populations of *S. franklinii* in southern Minnesota. He stated, "This graceful animal was at one time fairly abundant throughout the southern part of Minnesota, but is being rapidly exterminated by civilization" (p. 167). He added, "It is still abundant about Big Stone Lake [on the western border of Minnesota near the North Dakota / South Dakota border], where it will approach the traveler's tent fearlessly and may be taken by the hand if desired" (Herrick 1892, p. 167). Herrick (1892) said that *S. franklinii* is found "about the edges of copses and it is not unusual for the animal to take refuge in a low tree or close thicket rather than its burrow" (p. 167).

The carnivorous tendencies of *S. franklinii* were first noted by A.M. Johnson (1922), who relayed his account of an attack on a rabbit in a "vacant yard in the forest of western Aitkin County" (p. 187) in Minnesota. C.E. Johnson (1930), writing of his experiences in northwestern Minnesota during the years 1889–1902, recalled of *S. franklinii*, "On our homestead it was of rather common occurrence along the banks of the coulee and along the margins of the fields, where tall weeds, grass or scattered shrubbery formed suitable habitats" (p. 445).

Fifty years after Herrick (1892) noted declining populations of *S. franklinii* in southern Minnesota, Swanson *et al.* (1945)

declared the following: "The Franklin ground squirrel is no longer a common species in the southern part of the state, but in the northwestern counties it is quite abundant. In 1932 I found it as common as the striped species in Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties" (p. 77–8). Swanson *et al.* (1945) considered Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties, both found along the Canadian border, to be boreal habitat.

Gunderson and Beer (1953) summarized accounts of *S. franklinii* in Minnesota and mapped sites of its verified occurrence in the state. Of its habitat associations, they stated "It prefers brushy fields, and in Minnesota is often found in rock piles at the edges of woods" (Gunderson and Beer 1953, p. 77).

The long-term presence of *S. franklinii* at the University of Minnesota's Field Station at Itasca State Park in north-central Minnesota, which lies within the coniferous forest zone, has resulted in three publications involving the squirrels. Orr (1958) conducted a short-term behavioral study of *S. franklinii* at the field station, Haggerty (1968) conducted one of the first ecological studies devoted to *S. franklinii*, and Erlien and Tester (1984) analyzed population dynamics of all squirrels in the park. The results of Orr (1958) add little to the discussion here, but results from Haggerty (1968) and Erlien and Tester (1984) deserve further mention.

Haggerty (1968) observed *S. franklinii* in and near picnic areas and campgrounds within Itasca State Park and at the field station's property. Mowed areas with scattered clumps of trees, shrubs, and tall herbaceous vegetation characterized these areas (Haggerty 1968). She indicated that *S. franklinii* utilized mowed areas only when in proximity to brush or areas of tall grass. Based on trapping efforts during 1954–1966 by her and students in a vertebrate ecology class taught at the field station, 193 individual *S. franklinii* were captured, including 63 adults and 130 juveniles. An additional 66 squirrels were captured from three years of intermittent trapping at picnic grounds within the park (Haggerty 1968). Haggerty (1968) documented population fluctuations in *S.*

Table 6. Notes on Franklin’s ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, in Kansas.

Locality	Habitat	Abundance	Citation
Kansas		“Not common” (p. 22).	Knox 1875
Kansas		“Found in most parts of the state; not common” (p. 173).	Lantz 1905
Geary County, along the Missouri River	“small pastures and fields on the upland back of the bluffs” (p. 143).		Linsdale 1928
Kansas	“prefer denser cover than the other Kansas species, and are usually found in bushy or grassy border lands” (p. 176).	“extremely rare along periphery of the range; not common anywhere in Kansas” (p. 176).	Black 1937
Leavenworth County, Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation	Missouri River bank. buckbrush-sumac association.		Brumwell 1951
Kansas	“They prefer denser cover than the other Kansas ground squirrels, and are usually found in the brushy or grassy fence rows and in pasture lands” (p. 128).		Cockrum 1952
Lyon County		“Scarce” (p. 190). “Fisherman and other sportsmen frequently report seeing ‘large ground squirrels’ in the park [Lyon County State Park]” (p. 190).	Clarke et al. 1958
Kansas	“makes its home where the vegetation is so high that the animal cannot see over it and so dense that the animal cannot see through the vegetation for more than a few feet” (p. 95).	“One that my dog caught one and a half miles south of Le Loup, Franklin County, was the only one seen in the seven years that I lived there” (p. 95).	Hall 1955
Kansas	“the zone where tall grass prairie and deciduous forest come into contact. It prefers the sheltered cover of dense grasses, weedy fields and wastelands, and shrubby forest edges” (p. 91).	Uncommon (part of this is due to its wary nature).	Bee et al. 1981

Table 7. Accounts of Franklin's ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, in Minnesota from notes recorded by U.S. Biological Survey personnel contained in the archives at the NMNH.

Locality	Habitat	Abundance	Source
Moorhead, Clay County		"This animal is seen here occasionally, but not in any great numbers."	O.J. Murie 1919 Box 62, Folder 24
Minnesota	"I found it fairly common"	"in the heavy woods on the Chippewa, where it seemed especially fond of Norway pine areas with an undergrowth of hardwoods."	O.L. Augstin, Jr. 1930 Box 61, Folder 21
Itasca Lake, Clearwater County	"They occasionally run across the road but generally keep under cover of weeds and brush and close to through their burrows."	"These big gray ground squirrels with bushy tails & minute ears are found through this region but are rarely seen."	V. Bailey 1932 Box 62, Folder 6
Red Lake		"A Franklin's ground squirrel was seen crossing the road near the Ranger Station at Washkish."	V. Bailey 1932 Box 62, Folder 6

Table 8. Accounts of Franklin's ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, in Nebraska from notes recorded by U.S. Biological Survey personnel contained in the archives at the NMNH.

Locality	Habitat	Abundance	Source
Ames, Dodge County	"This specimen was the only one I saw in two days over the prairie."	"I shot one gray spermophile in a stubble field about 3/4 mile N.E. of Ames. The owner of the land told me they were quite plenty [sic] and took up considerable young corn in the spring."	G. Coleman 1892 Box 68, Folder 32
Columbus, Platte County	"4 were caught in small steel traps. No. 198 was caught at [a] hole in prairie land. No. 211 at [a] hole in [an] oat field. The other two were caught in traps set for <i>Geomys</i> . I saw several more running on prairie and in stubble fields."		G. Coleman 1892 Box 68, Folder 32
Kearney, Buffalo County		"2 of the gray species were caught—one preserved...Buffalo Co. gives a premium of 3 cents each for [something?]. The boys keep them pretty well killed off near town."	G. Coleman 1892 Box 68, Folder 32
Knox County		"common at Niobrara where a female killed June 9 contained 7 small embryos. They were said to occur at Verdigre, Knox Co."	V. Bailey 1893 Box 68, Folder 14
Cuming and Holt counties		"one seen from the car window [train car] between Beemer and Wisner. At Ewing a boy described them and said he had killed 2, but they were very scarce."	V. Bailey 1894 Box 68, Folder 15
Knox County	"At Verdigris living in holes in the sides of ravines, and at the bases of hills bordering the valley."	"Appears to be abundant. Farmers say it is very destructive to growing corn."	M. Cary 1903 Box 68, Folder 23
Halsey, Thomas County		"Gray ground squirrels are not very common. Near Russell one of the station employees saw one July 10."	D.E. Lautz 1910 Box 68, Folder 37

*franklinii*, indicated by the following densities: 0.09 *S. franklinii*/ha in 1954, 0.04/ha in 1958, 0.24/ha in 1960 and 1961, 0.09/ha in 1963, and 0.08/ha in 1964.

Haggerty (1968) noted *S. franklinii* dispersal throughout the active season, but particularly in May and late summer. Those *S. franklinii* with the greatest tendency to travel long distances included juveniles, spring yearlings, and males, in contrast to adults in general and females in particular (Haggerty 1968). Maximum documented movements of presumed dispersers were 0.8–1.6 km. Some adult males moved as much as 152–304 m in a few hours (Haggerty 1968). Low survivorship in *S. franklinii* complicated efforts to gather more detailed information on dispersal. Only 11 of 130 juveniles were recaptured as yearlings, indicating a high rate of mortality and/or emigration during the first year of life (Haggerty 1968). Similarly, maximum known ages of adults were 5 and 2 years, for females and males respectively (Haggerty 1968).

Erlie and Tester (1984) analyzed *S. franklinii* capture rates at Itasca State Park for 1954–1975, incorporating data collected by Haggerty (1968), and reported a periodicity of 10–11 years for population peaks. The cyclic pattern of *S. franklinii* populations was the strongest of the squirrels tested ( $r^2$  of 0.81 in serial correlation analysis). They speculated that the cyclic patterns of *S. franklinii* might be the result of prey-switching by predators of snowshoe hare (*L. americanus*) and ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*). Population peaks and valleys of *S. franklinii* lagged behind those of both *L. americanus* and *B. umbellus* for the same period (Erlie and Tester 1984).

Accounts of *S. franklinii* in Minnesota from the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century further detail its presence in the primarily wooded portions of the northern part of the state. Robins (1970–1971, p. 31) found *S. franklinii* “numerous in the mid-1960s in several public campgrounds on the west side of Lake Winnibigoshish and around Cut-Foot Sioux Lake in Itasca County” in north-central Minnesota. He also reported *S. franklinii* from the Duluth area, in northeastern Minnesota, which previously had fallen outside

the geographic range of the species (Robins 1970–1971). Robins (1970–1971) found *S. franklinii* in brushy fields or near the edges of woods. Hazard (1982, p. 63) declared that *S. franklinii* “prefers brushy and partly wooded areas, as well as prairie edges, rather than open prairie” and that this habitat preference, plus a tolerance for people, explains its common occurrence in campsites, state parks, and open dumps. Hazard (1982) updated the distribution of *S. franklinii* in Minnesota and remarked that the species “has moved north and east into the forest biomes as land has been cleared” (p. 63).

Lewis (1988) examined population structure and reproductive characteristics of *S. franklinii* from animals trapped from the Mid-continent Waterfowl Project in Ottertail, Grant, and Douglas counties in west-central Minnesota. Based on trapping success (measured in trap-nights per squirrel), *S. franklinii* populations increased in those areas from 1984–1987 as follows: 53 squirrels trapped in 1984, 60 in 1985, 118 in 1986, and 155 in 1987 (Lewis 1988). The study area was predominately agricultural (corn, oats, and wheat, primarily), with Waterfowl Production Areas in the area consisting principally of prairie and wetland habitat (Lewis 1988).

Sargeant *et al.* (1993) reported *S. franklinii* from all three of their study sites within Minnesota (Table 3). Oak trees were common in woodlots at all three sites and at those near Hawley and Hitterdal, they ranged up to 0.65 km<sup>2</sup>. The authors ranked the presence of *S. franklinii* at their Minnesota study sites as either “scarce” or “uncommon” (Sargeant *et al.* 1993 and see Table 3).

**Missouri.** I located little information on *S. franklinii* specific to Missouri. Coues and Allen (1877) wrote that the geographic range of *S. franklinii* extended from northern Missouri to the Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories of Canada. Although the species does not occur as far north as the Great Slave Lake (one of several geographical inaccuracies in Coues and Allen’s account), its geographic range in Missouri is limited to the northern part of the state (Fig. 2).

Schwartz and Schwartz (1981) provided an excellent account of the natural history

of *S. franklinii*, but it is difficult to ascertain how much of their information is specific to Missouri. They reported it limited to the western and northern parts of the state and indicated that while it occupies the Prairie Region of Missouri “it prefers the marginal habitat afforded by fence rows, wooded banks, gullies, and little-grazed sod” (Schwartz and Schwartz 1981, p. 144).

Ellis (1982) studied a population of *S. franklinii* along a railroad right-of-way located 4 km S of Atlanta in Macon County in the north-central part of Missouri. He captured 47 individual *S. franklinii* on his study site of 2.4 ha (Ellis 1982). Only 4 of 15 adult squirrels were regularly recaptured, and he thought only 18 of 32 juveniles were born on the site (Ellis 1982). New juveniles were captured on the site from August through early October. He concluded that many *S. franklinii* captured on his site were transitory animals and that young dispersed in fall (Ellis 1982).

Ellis (1982) identified three traits of his site he felt contributed to the large population of squirrels found there: 1) considerable vegetative cover, principally in the form of grasses (primarily Japanese and smooth brome, *B. japonicus* and *B. inermis*), 2) relatively little disturbance—in contrast to areas that are grazed, hayed, or farmed, and 3) topography and substrate suitable for burrow construction. The site also contained a border of trees along a fencerow and the occasional shrub or tree along the right-of-way that Ellis also felt might be important habitat factors. He believed the lack of disturbance at the site contributed to its vegetative characteristics and the squirrel’s continued presence. Unfortunately, he noted that the three habitat traits he identified rarely occurred in areas other than railroad right-of-ways in northeast Missouri (Ellis 1982). That statement may hold true for much of the lower Midwest. Nevertheless, Ellis concluded that *S. franklinii* was relatively common in northern Missouri and that the species should not be considered rare, threatened, or endangered in the state. However, he did recommend that, because of the squirrel’s preference for tallgrass habitat, prairie should be conserved and restored in Missouri (Ellis 1982).

DeSanty-Combes (2001), biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, recently summarized 60 years (1941–2001) of distributional data for *S. franklinii* in Missouri. She recorded it from 69 localities in 27 counties, based on museum specimens, written reports, and recently reported sightings gathered from a mail-survey (DeSanty-Combes 2001). Twenty-seven of these localities were reported from 1990–2001 and 16 occurred in 2001 alone (DeSanty-Combes 2001). At nearly 80% of sites visited by her in June 2001, most shared characteristics that included “wide grassy roadside ditches or brushy fence rows (with an embankment suitable for burrowing), tree rows providing an edge component, cropland, and grassland” (DeSanty-Combes 2001, p. 1). In the course of visiting sites, DeSanty-Combes discovered one *S. franklinii* roadkill (in approximately 25 hours and 1,192 miles of driving). One additional *S. franklinii* roadkill was reported in her 2001 mail survey (DeSanty-Combes 2001). Another state biologist trapped one adult male and one juvenile female in a 30-trap-day effort in July 2001 at a site where *S. franklinii* were observed earlier in the summer, but subsequent trapping at the location (90 additional trap-days) produced no additional animals (DeSanty-Combes 2001).

DeSanty-Combes continued her survey efforts for *S. franklinii* in 2002. Another mail survey resulted in 32 more reported sightings, of which 29 were from new locations (DeSanty-Combes 2002). She visited many of these sites to verify the squirrel’s presence. Because *S. franklinii* has been recorded from only 16 of 27 historically occupied counties since 1990, she proposed that further research be conducted to determine the ecological factors limiting the distribution of the species within Missouri. As a result of her recent findings, the status of *S. franklinii* in Missouri changed from S4 to S2S3, which indicates that the species is rare and may be locally imperiled (DeSanty-Combes 2002).

**Nebraska.** Warren (1875, p. 93) collected one *S. franklinii* “near the mouth of the Loup Fork of the Platte” where he found them “quite rare”

in his explorations during 1855–1857. In contrast, Aughey (1880, p. 120) reported *S. franklinii* as “common on the prairies” of Nebraska. Perhaps, as was true elsewhere throughout its geographic range, the abundance of *S. franklinii* in Nebraska varied locally. A portion of a letter from Lawrence Bruner (a professor at the University of Nebraska), reprinted by Bailey (1893, p. 52), supported this view: “Franklin’s *Spermophile* is quite common in some parts and rare in others.” Swenk (1908, p. 30) considered *S. franklinii* locally abundant and “very common in eastern Nebraska east of the 98<sup>th</sup> meridian.” First-hand accounts from U.S. Biological Survey reports (Table 8) provided more specific information about *S. franklinii* in Nebraska around the turn of the nineteenth century.

No detailed accounts from the first-half of the twentieth century address the habitat associations or local abundance of *S. franklinii* in Nebraska. Although during this time the species was of sufficient abundance and availability to serve as a study organism for Otis Wade, a professor at the University of Nebraska who published several works on hibernation in ground squirrels (Wade 1930, 1948, 1950; Wade and Gilbert 1940). Later, Jones (1964) summarized the status of *S. franklinii* in the state prior to 1960. He considered it “typically an inhabitant of the tall-grass prairie of the eastern part of the state” (p. 124) and noted that burrow sites occurred in “tall grass, brush, or the wooded borders of grassy areas” (Jones 1964, p. 125). As early as the 1960s, he perceived a decline of the squirrel in the southeastern region of Nebraska and commented, “In my own experience, Franklin’s ground squirrel was seen more frequently in the vicinity of Lincoln 15 years ago, even 10 years ago, than today” (Jones 1964, p. 125).

Haberman and Fleharty (1971, p. 77) found *S. franklinii* “common in low-lying areas near bridges and along road sides and railroad right-of-ways” in Boone County. The burrows of their study population were in stands of smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) with an abundance of chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) bushes and wild plum (*Prunus americana*) thickets nearby (Haberman and Fleharty 1971). According to citizens of Boone County, in 1969 populations of *S. franklinii* were at a 20-year high and now were occurring near buildings and hay bales

on local farmsteads (Haberman and Fleharty 1971).

Data on *S. franklinii* in Nebraska were gleaned from two additional published sources. Pivorun and Sinnamon (1981), although they provided no specific locality, trapped 30 *S. franklinii* in Nebraska in May 1978 for their study of blood coagulation in hibernating ground squirrels. This certainly indicates the presence of a sizeable local population, or populations, of *S. franklinii* in Nebraska at that time. Manning and Geluso (1989) reported a single sight record of *S. franklinii* from about 20 km east of the Halsey National Forest property, in central Nebraska. The animal was in tall grass along the road near the Middle Loup River (Manning and Geluso 1989).

**North Dakota.** Elliott Coues found *S. franklinii* abundant at Pembina, North Dakota, near the Canadian border prior to 1877 (Coues and Allen 1877). Years later they were still common at Pembina, according to Bailey (1888), who found them in brush, prairie meadows, and fields. At Devil’s Lake in Ramsey County, he (Bailey 1888, p. 439) observed that they seemed “to prefer woods or low marshy and weedy land.” He later added that, at Devil’s Lake, “they were most common in the straggling groves of small trees a little back from the lake, and many of their burrows were placed under logs and stumps or between the roots of trees” (Bailey 1893, p. 51). A few years later, A.K. Fisher of the U.S. Biological Survey observed that the population at Devil’s Lake had declined (see Table 9).

In the early 1900s in parts of eastern North Dakota, *S. franklinii* frequently was considered common or abundant and usually found associated with habitat that contained a woody component (Table 9). Bailey *et al.* (1914, p. 7) stated, “They are not generally distributed over the open prairie country, but depend on the cover of brush and timber, and in suitable areas become very numerous and extremely destructive.” Bailey (1926) reiterated those thoughts more than a decade later. Agricultural practices certainly caused changes in local abundance of *S. franklinii* in North Dakota. In areas where they were once uncommon, they suddenly occurred in great numbers, only later to decline to the point of disappearance—certainly due in part to attempts to exterminate them as agricultural pests (Table 9).

Since the early surveys, the literature concerning *S. franklinii* in North Dakota has dealt principally with the species as a predator of duck nests—*S. franklinii* is known to consume duck eggs (Sargeant *et al.* 1987, Choromanski-Norris *et al.* 1989, Sargeant *et al.* 1993). One of these studies—Choromanski-Norris *et al.* (1989) (based on Choromanski-Norris 1983)—resulted in the most carefully measured information on habitat use by *S. franklinii* within the state. They tracked *S. franklinii* within a waterfowl production area using radio-telemetry. In their study, conducted in Stutsman County in central North Dakota, the most intensively used portion of the study area was in, and in proximity to, a tree-belt that was composed principally of Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), plum (*Prunus* spp.), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), and lilac (*Syringa* spp.) (Choromanski-Norris *et al.* 1989). Because the tree-belt constituted approximately 1.5% of available habitat, its high use indicated a strong habitat preference by the squirrel (Choromanski-Norris *et al.* 1989).

Sargeant *et al.* (1993) found *S. franklinii* at seven of nine study sites in North Dakota (see Table 3). They considered it “scarce” at all locations except Sharon, where it was considered “uncommon” (Sargeant *et al.* 1993 and Table 3). All of the North Dakota study sites were included in the prairie zone of the Prairie Pothole region (Sargeant *et al.* 1993 and Table 3).

**South Dakota.** Four museum specimens (NMNH 14914, 21831, 192729, 192730) collected at Fort Sisseton in the northeastern part of South Dakota in 1887 comprise the earliest evidence of *S. franklinii* in the state. A few years later, in 1893, Bailey wrote that *S. franklinii* was, “Common at Scotland where one specimen was taken” and “said to be quite common at Running Water” (*in lit*, NHMH, Box 90, Folder 17). Both Scotland and Running Water are located in the southeast corner of South Dakota. Over and Churchill (1945) indicated that the range of *S. franklinii* did not extend much beyond the Missouri River and that, in the southeastern part of the state, “it frequents the highways and lives in the banks along the roadside” (p. 25). They reported that it “no doubt destroys many eggs and the young of ground nesting birds” (p. 25) and supported that statement with an account of a squirrel

destroying two nests—one identified as quail, *Colinus virginianus* (Over and Churchill 1945).

Findley (1956), Choate and Jones (1981), Sargeant *et al.* (1993), and Higgins *et al.* (2000) add little more to the account of *S. franklinii* in South Dakota. Findley recorded the species from Clay County, but provided no specific information about the specimen. Choate and Jones (1981) included *S. franklinii* in their account of mammals found in the state and remarked that the western limits of its distribution were poorly known. Sargeant *et al.* (1993) recorded *S. franklinii* from near Parkston, the only one of their three South Dakota study sites where the species was observed (see Table 3). Most recently, Higgins *et al.* (2000) provided a general account of the species within the state. They stated that, although found in brushy areas or along woodland edges, the squirrel favors areas of dense grass, such as may be found in tallgrass or mixed-grass prairies (Higgins *et al.* 2000).

**Wisconsin.** Strong (1883) provided the earliest record of *S. franklinii* from Wisconsin that I found. He reported it from the prairie regions, noted it frequently inhabited cultivated fields and did not occur as commonly as *S. tridecemlineatus*. Bailey (1893) found the northernmost records of *S. franklinii* in Wisconsin at Plover and Ripon—in central and south-central Wisconsin, respectively. It was rare at those localities (Bailey 1893). Snyder (1902) collected three specimens in Dodge County: one near some barns in 1891; a second which was dug from its burrow in an oat field in 1892; and a third in 1900 after it was observed running along a road bordered by fields of newly sown grain and clover. Snyder (1902) received reports of the commonness of *S. franklinii* in certain townships of Dodge County, but also mentioned his own difficulties in finding the species on a consistent basis.

Jackson (1908, p. 18) considered *S. franklinii* generally “rare in all sections of the state” but noted “careful observation will prove them quite common west from Rock County to the Mississippi River and north to Pepin County.” He said they occurred in fields of growing grain and along fencerows and observed that they moved to areas of tall grasses when the grain fields were cut (Jackson 1908). He felt the shyness of the species contributed to the lack of information concerning it within Wisconsin

Continued on page 31

Table 9. Accounts of Franklin’s ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, in North Dakota from notes recorded by U.S. Biological Survey personnel contained in the archives at the NMNH.

Locality	Habitat	Abundance	Source
Devils Lake, Ramsey County		“Franklin’s Spermophile was apparently very rare as only one specimen was secured. A few years since Mr. Bailey found it common, but found Richardson’s Spermophile very rare, which species at the present time is very abundant.”	A.K. Fisher 1893 Box 79, Folder 16
Lisbon, Ransom County		“Said to be not common; I did not see any.”	A.K. Fisher 1893 Box 79, Folder 16
LaMoure, LaMoure County	“In one locality the notes of a number were heard among a thick growth of <i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i> along the banks of the James River.”	“Quite common.”	A.K. Fisher 1893 Box 79, Folder 16
Grafton, Walsh County	“being found in pasture prairies chiefly.”	“This Franklin’s ground squirrel is also numerous at this locality.”	H.V. Williams 1912 Box 80, Folder 25
Walhalla, Pembina County	“inhabiting the timber and brushy districts. They live in holes usually at the foot of a tree or stump.”	“This ground squirrel is also abundant thru this locality.”	H.V. Williams 1912 Box 80, Folder 25
Wales, Cavalier County	“They inhabit the prairie lands where it is level and also the grain fields, but are never found in the timber.”	“The Franklin’s ground squirrel is very plentiful here.”	H.V. Williams 1912 Box 80, Folder 25
Birchwood, Rolette County	“living chiefly in the timber but on occasion a specimen is found out on the prairies.”	“These ground squirrels are very plentiful at this locality.”	H.V. Williams 1912 Box 80, Folder 25
See information in the account within the “Abundance” section in this row.		“From St. John homeward by way of Canada the country is overrun with the Franklin ground squirrel. They are the thickest near Starkweather...A decrease in numbers was noticed after reaching Adams and very few were seen from there to Park River while none from Park River to Grafton.”	H.V. Williams 1912 Box 80, Folder 25
Portland, Traill County		“After reaching the delta saw no more of the Richardsons ground squirrel, its place being taken by the Franklin’s and the Striped.”	A. Eastgate 1912 Box 79, Folder 15



Table 9 continued

Locality	Habitat	Abundance	Source
Valley City, Barnes County	"all along the river and larger ravines where any small brush and tall weeds grow."	"common in [the] river valley."	A. Eastgate 1912 Box 79, Folder 15
Kathryne, Barnes County		"Very common along the valley and on the higher prairie."	A. Eastgate 1912 Box 79, Folder 15
Lisbon, Ransom County		"Very common all along the valley."	A. Eastgate 1912 Box 79, Folder 15
Fairmount, Richland County	"They inhabit the ground chiefly along the course of the Bois de Sioux River where they make their burrows in the nettles."	"abundant throughout the southeastern part of the state." "They are becoming a pest in this section of the state and I was told by many farmers that three years ago they did not know such an animal existed and [they] have become more numerous each year."	H.H. Sheldon 1915 Box 80, Folder 16
Lidgerwood, Richland County	"inhabiting grass bordering grain fields."	"Very abundant."	H.H. Sheldon 1915 Box 80, Folder 16
Oakes, Dickey County	"along [the] James River where the tall grass offers concealment for their burrows which in usually every case are adjacent to grain fields."	"Abundant."	H.H. Sheldon 1915 Box 80, Folder 16
Ellendale, Dickey County		"These squirrels have never been common in this vicinity...However it does occur."	H.H. Sheldon 1915 Box 80, Folder 16
Wahpeton, Richland County		"occurs in this locality."	R. Kellogg 1915 Box 80, Folder 2
Grafton, Walsh County	"several seen in hay field."		R. Kellogg 1915 Box 80, Folder 2

Continued on next page

Table 9 continued

Locality	Habitat	Abundance	Source
Drayton, Pembina County		“Does a great deal of damage to the growing corn.”	R. Kellogg 1915 Box 80, Folder 2
Manvel, Grand Forks County		“Farmers here endeavor to kill these ground squirrels off as fast as they see them because of the damage they do.”	R. Kellogg 1915 Box 80, Folder 2
Larimore, Grand Forks County	“Two were taken on the edge of a wheat field.”		R. Kellogg 1915 Box 80, Folder 2
Tokio, Warwick, and Fort Totten, Benson County	“One can hear their whistle in the woods and on the edge of brush patches.”	“Common.”	R. Kellogg 1915 Box 80, Folder 2
Towner, McHenry County	“I found this ground squirrel most common in the brushy patches in the sandhills. I also saw one in the meadow near Mouse River.”		R. Kellogg 1915 Box 80, Folder 2
Fargo, Cass County		“is found here, but in much smaller numbers than the last species [ <i>S. tridecemlineatus</i> ].”	O.J. Murie 1919 Box 80, Folder 13

Table 10. Tabulation of specific accounts of Franklin’s ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, reported in the text that address *S. franklinii* populations and habitat use. Refer to Appendix Table 1 to see the list of citations used to construct this table.

Publication year of citation	Characterization of population(s)		Fluctuating or variable in occurrence	Characterization of habitat		
	Common, abundant, increasing, or a pest	Uncommon, rare, or declining		Prairie <sup>1</sup>	Savanna <sup>2</sup>	Woodland <sup>3</sup>
Pre - 1950	32	18	10	16	28	2
Post - 1950	8	22	9	19	31	0
Totals	40	40	19	35	59	2

<sup>1</sup>=Habitat description includes no mention of woody vegetation, only grasses and forbs.  
<sup>2</sup>=Habitat description includes mention of both grassy and woody vegetation.  
<sup>3</sup>=Habitat description includes mention of only woody vegetation

(Jackson 1908). Hollister (1908) reiterated some of Jackson's points and added a few additional details that contribute to the picture of *S. franklinii* in Wisconsin. He found it "common in isolated colonies in various parts of Walworth County" (Hollister 1908, p. 139). The largest colonies occurred on the "Ridge Prairie" and on the border of the "Big Marsh" near Delavan. At Big Marsh he shot one out of a tamarack tree (*Larix laricina*) "from a considerable height," having mistaken it for a gray squirrel (Hollister 1908, p. 139).

Schmidt (1931, p. 111) collected one *S. franklinii* that "was living in brush consisting of poplar, soft maple, and jack pine, in which there were a few open spaces grown up to sweet fern and blueberries" in western Clark County in 1927 or 1928. He examined the stomach contents of that individual and found it contained 20% "highbush blueberries", 30% "blueberries", and 50% "white roots" (Schmidt 1931, p. 111).

The most extensive information concerning *S. franklinii* in Wisconsin is from Jackson (1961). About its habitat associations, in addition to the citations already referenced, he added: "sometimes [it is found] in fairly heavy woods, particularly of Norway or jack pine, if sufficient undercover of ferns, grass, or low shrubs is present; rarely in the vicinity of barns or farm houses" (Jackson 1961, p. 140). He considered the "sheltering cover of tall grass or other herbage...a necessary condition for its habitat" and noted "it is not found in closely grazed or mowed pastures, fields, lawns, or cemeteries where the striped ground squirrel might be common" (Jackson 1961, p. 140). Jackson (1961) said the species could not be considered common in Wisconsin, but added that it is probably more "plentiful than records indicate" (p. 140). Like many others, he commented on the variable nature of *S. franklinii* populations when he stated, "It may become common at times in isolated small colonies, but tends to shift its homesite and may be present one day, gone the next, and back again in a few weeks, another year, or several years" (Jackson 1961, p. 140).

Lewis and Rongstad (1992) gathered reports of 35 sightings of *S. franklinii* from 28 locations in 14 Wisconsin counties in 1985 and 1986. Reports revealed concentrations of squirrels in Douglas, Burnett, and Rusk counties in northwest Wisconsin, and in Waukesha,

Racine, and Kenosha counties in southeastern Wisconsin, as well as at scattered localities in a northwest band through the center of the state (Lewis and Rongstad 1992). In his thesis, Lewis (1988) suggested that populations of *S. franklinii* at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Burnett County and Bong Recreation Area in Racine County might serve as source populations for reintroductions elsewhere. However, I was unable to locate squirrels in brief searches at either Crex Meadows (visited in 1999) or at Bong (visited in both 2000 and 2001). Refuge personnel at Crex Meadows indicated that *S. franklinii* were fairly common 8–10 years ago but have not been seen regularly since then (P. Petersen, pers. comm.).

Anthony (1999) initiated the Wisconsin Small Mammal Survey for his M.S. thesis. The effort involved coordinating volunteers to survey various grassland habitats in southern Wisconsin to establish base-line data and habitat preferences of small mammals. Anthony (1999) recorded *S. franklinii* from only 1 of 16 study sites in 24 trapping events spanning 1995–1997. The squirrel was found in August 1997 at Chiwaukee Prairie, located in the extreme southeast corner of the state (Anthony 1999).

## DISCUSSION

Several generalizations can be made about *S. franklinii* based on the preceding accounts. First, throughout its geographic range, *S. franklinii* usually occurs in habitat that contains both grassy and woody components. Of 96 specific accounts, 59 clearly indicate that both grassy and woody vegetation were present in habitat occupied by *S. franklinii* (Table 10). Second, the squirrel frequently exhibits changes in local abundance. Lastly, according to the published literature since 1950, *S. franklinii* is considered less common in general (Table 10). More specifically it is encountered less frequently in the southern portion of its geographic range than in former times. Of 22 accounts published since 1950 that indicate *S. franklinii* is uncommon, rare, or declining (Table 10), 15 of these are from the four states (Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas) that occupy the southernmost portion of *S. franklinii*'s geographic range. (Refer to Appendix Table 1 for specific information on the citations used to construct Table 10.) Each

of these generalizations will be expanded upon in the following paragraphs.

## Habitat

**Historical and natural associations.** From the earliest accounts to the present, even prehistorically, *S. franklinii* most commonly has been found in habitat containing a mix of grassy and woody components. This mixture of vegetation occurs at the interface of many different types of woodland—both deciduous and coniferous—and grassland habitats. Woodland edges, grassy openings within woods, wooded valleys within grasslands, riparian corridors, and grasslands that include scattered trees and shrubs, all constitute habitat suitable for *S. franklinii*.

In the southern part of its geographic range, many have referred to *S. franklinii* as an animal of the tallgrass prairie (Van Petten and Schramm 1972, Krohne *et al.* 1973, Jones *et al.* 1983, Krohne and Schramm 1992, Benedict *et al.* 1996, Higgins *et al.* 2000, Pergams and Nyberg 2001). Because of this association, some have suggested a correlation between decreased availability of tallgrass prairie habitat—less than 4% of pre-European coverage is left (Samson and Knopf 1994)—and declining *S. franklinii* populations (Bowles 1981; Benedict *et al.* 1996; Pergams and Nyberg 2001, 2003). While it is true that there is considerable overlap between the geographic range of *S. franklinii* and the historic range of the tallgrass prairie environment (the forest-steppes and prairie ecoregion in Fig. 2), and while it is also true that the loss of tallgrass prairie habitat has undoubtedly negatively impacted *S. franklinii*, based on the review of the available literature I would contend that *S. franklinii* is not an animal that is strongly tied to tallgrass prairie habitat in the strictest sense. First, historically *S. franklinii* has occurred in nonprairie areas, particularly in the northern part of its range (Fig. 2). The northern exceptions aside, the fact that *S. franklinii* shares much of its distribution with the range of the former tallgrass prairie does not imply that tallgrass prairie is its focal habitat. Said another way, while *S. franklinii* could reasonably be described as an animal of the tallgrass prairie region, I feel that describing *S. franklinii* as an animal with a preference for tallgrass prairie habitat is much too restrictive. In describing *S. franklinii* habitat it is important to be cognizant of the effects of scale on perception. Although

vegetation maps of the upper Midwest generally show two vegetation types, prairie and forest, a gradient exists between grasslands and woodlands where the habitats meld (Taft 1997). As Taft (1997) suggests, the portrayal of this sharp division is more a matter of convenience and is principally the result of the difficulty in mapping a habitat gradient. Unfortunately, this gradient that occurs at the interface of prairie and forest habitat—referred to as savanna, open woodland, or simply, savanna-like habitat (Taft 1997)—long has been ignored as an ecological community in North America.

To return to the issue of *S. franklinii* and tallgrass prairie habitat, Sargeant *et al.* (1993, p. 30) offered this view: “Little is known about the abundance of this species before settlement or about population trends after settlement. However, because of its specific habitat requirements, Franklin’s ground squirrels probably were scarce or absent throughout the prairie before settlement, except in locations with brush, and probably were numerous in the aspen parkland.” Indeed, Sargeant *et al.* (1993) found *S. franklinii* significantly more common at study sites within the aspen parkland zone than at those within the prairie zone. Although the comments of Sargeant *et al.* (1993) may suggest that *S. franklinii* historically was less common in the southern part of its geographic range where aspen parkland was absent, Taft (1997) clearly illustrates that other habitat was available for *S. franklinii* in the south in the form of oak-savannas. These oak-savannas were prevalent throughout Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and much of Iowa and Wisconsin in presettlement times (Fig. 2.1 in Taft 1997). This understanding of the distribution of savanna-like habitat is reflected in Bailey’s (1998) map of North American ecoregions, which includes the ‘forest-steppe and prairie’ ecoregion where tallgrass prairie is typically found (Fig. 2). Finally, while all evidence suggests that *S. franklinii* is most frequently associated with habitat that contains both grassy and woody components, it can occur in habitat that is dominated by grasses and forbs. However, based on my review of the data, I agree with Taft (1997) who included *S. franklinii* in a list of animals found in midwestern savanna-like habitats. Clearly, *S. franklinii* is described best as a species with an affinity for savanna-like habitats.

**Agricultural associations.** In addition to its use of natural, savanna-like habitats, many of the early accounts of *S. franklinii*, even accounts of prehistoric occurrence, indicate the squirrel's use of agricultural lands. From a distributional perspective, the clearing of forested areas for agriculture, which resulted in increased contact between grassland and woodland environments, allowed *S. franklinii* to expand its geographic range in some regions—particularly in the east (DeVos 1964). Agricultural modification of the land resulted in *S. franklinii* moving east into Ontario (Snyder 1938) and northeast in Minnesota (Hazard 1982; Robins 1970–1971), and allowed overall range expansions in both Iowa (Scott 1937) and Indiana (Lyon 1932).

Agriculture also affected the local abundance of *S. franklinii*. Because *S. franklinii* consumed newly planted corn and other grains, early agricultural practices provided an abundant source of food in close proximity to favorable habitat. Increased abundance of *S. franklinii* populations as a result of early agricultural practices were hinted at by Spurrell (1917, p. 283) who reported from Iowa, "This species was not as common in early days as it is now." The association of *S. franklinii* with agricultural lands also has had negative consequences for the species. As indicated in the accounts, when *S. franklinii* became noticeably numerous in agricultural areas, efforts were made either to eliminate them entirely, or at least to significantly reduce their numbers. This scenario even may have occurred at prehistoric agricultural settlements (Rhodes and Semken 1986).

**Right-of-ways.** Today, *S. franklinii* is frequently found along roadside or railroad right-of-ways, particularly in the southern portions of its geographic range (Haberman and Fleharty 1971; Gray 1972; Ellis 1982; Mumford and Whitaker 1982; Benjamin 1991; Johnson and Choromanski-Norris 1992; Lotter 1994; Hoffmann 1999; DeSanty-Combes 2001, 2002). Ellis (1982) concisely stated the reason for the high frequency of use of these right-of-ways by the squirrels in the southern portion of their geographic range: simply put, often right-of-ways represent the only available patches of habitat that meet the squirrel's needs. Gray (1972) echoed this sentiment for his area of Illinois when he stated that idle land was limited to streambanks, roadsides, railroads, and small

woodlands along streams, the remainder of the land being utilized predominantly for intensive agriculture.

Modern agricultural practices in much of the midwestern U.S. maximize use of all available lands, thus fields are often plowed to fences or roads. Field-edges and fencerows that once provided valuable habitat for many different species of wildlife now, typically, are non-existent or quite "clean." In contrast, although typically roadside right-of-ways receive at least some level of mowing during summer months, in the absence of roadwork (such as lane widening) they are relatively undisturbed and often form ideal habitat for *S. franklinii*. This is particularly true of rural roads that often contain a mixture of grasses and forbs that grow unhindered throughout much of the summer, frequently complimented by shrub thickets and scattered trees. These factors, certainly apparent to Platt *et al.* (1973) in Kansas, led them to recommend that farmers leave native vegetation around field-edges and that the department of roads restrict mowing along roadside right-of-ways in order to increase *S. franklinii* habitat. Like roadside right-of-ways, railroad right-of-ways may serve as excellent habitat for *S. franklinii* in the lower Midwest. These areas, particularly when no longer in use and thus left undisturbed, result in a diverse mix of thick vegetation including grasses, shrubs, and trees in various stages of growth. Right-of-ways are almost certainly of less importance for the persistence of *S. franklinii* in the northern part of its geographic range where woodland edges and openings and aspen-parkland habitat remain relatively common.

### Influences on Abundance

Although *S. franklinii* certainly appears to be capable of persisting at a site for many decades, especially large sites such as Delta Marsh in Manitoba (Sowls 1948, Tasmitt 1962, *pers. obs.* 2000, Hare 2004), more commonly the occurrence of the species at a specific location is highly variable. Several authors, reporting from Illinois (Kennicott 1857) and Wisconsin (Jackson 1961) in the south to Saskatchewan (Soper 1951, 1961b) in the north, have indicated that the squirrel may be present at a locality for some time—weeks, months, or even years—and then suddenly disappear. (See also Table 10 and the Appendix Table 1.) In the following paragraphs I convey how population

cycles, disturbance, and dispersal activities all may affect the squirrel's local abundance. Additionally, serving as the backdrop for these processes, I also suggest that *S. franklinii*'s primary use of savanna-like habitat has consequences for the persistence of its populations at local sites.

**Population cycles and fluctuations.** As indicated in the accounts, several authors have reported population fluctuations or cycles within *S. franklinii* (Sowls 1948, Haggerty 1968, Haberman and Fleharty 1971, Banfield 1974 Erlien and Tester 1984, Keith and Cary 1991). In some cases, cyclic lows reduce populations to the point where they disappear from the immediate area for a time (Erlien and Tester 1984), or are nearly brought to that point (Keith and Cary 1991). In those scenarios, the local site is repopulated, at least in part, by dispersers from nearby populations (Haggerty 1968, Erlien and Tester 1984). The factors responsible for these population fluctuations or cycles within *S. franklinii* remain unclear, but have been linked to snowshoe hare cycles with the squirrels serving as an alternate prey source for the hare's predators (Erlien and Tester 1984, Keith and Cary 1991). Although these reported population cycles within *S. franklinii* are limited to the northern part of the squirrel's geographic range (Minnesota, Manitoba, Alberta), where it overlaps with the distribution of the hare and thus lends some support to this hypothesis, irregular population peaks have been reported in Nebraska (Haberman and Fleharty 1971), outside the range of the hare. More long-term monitoring is needed to determine factors contributing to population fluctuations of *S. franklinii*.

**Disturbance.** The most obvious types of disturbance to populations of *S. franklinii* historically were attempts to exterminate them from a local area. Programs to eradicate squirrels were common around the turn of the nineteenth century (Bailey 1893) in the United States, and certainly resulted in dramatic fluctuations in local populations.

Disturbance of the squirrel's habitat also may cause their sudden departure from an area. Plowing of agricultural fields, which destroys burrows, will certainly cause any squirrels with burrows within the plowed field to leave—at least for a time. However, as Spurrell (1917)

indicated, haying or mowing of tall grass also will cause squirrels to relocate to more favorable habitat. Loss of ground cover due to fire—prescribed or otherwise, is likely to cause *S. franklinii* to avoid the area until it is revegetated. I will discuss the impact of disturbance on the persistence of *S. franklinii* populations in greater detail in the "Conservation and Threats" section that follows.

**Dispersal.** Juvenile and male-biased dispersal is common in most ground squirrels (Holekamp 1984). Haggerty (1968), Ellis (1982), and Martin and Heske (2005) provided evidence that dispersal of *S. franklinii*, especially in juvenile animals, is probably quite common and accounts for both individual gains (through immigration to the site via dispersal) and losses (through emigration from the site via dispersal) in the local squirrel population. Population size and longevity in *S. franklinii* certainly is affected by dispersal activities, as it is in other animal populations (*in* Holekamp 1984). In the case of *S. franklinii*, because the squirrel lives in an increasingly fragmented environment—particularly in the southeastern portion of its geographic range, the survival of dispersing squirrels may be significantly lower than in historic times. Certainly, throughout much of the squirrel's geographic range, there are now greater distances separating areas of suitable habitat. Furthermore, the matrix between suitable areas of occupation is increasingly inhospitable to *S. franklinii*, as it has come to be dominated by agricultural monoculture, sterile suburban and urban landscapes, and everywhere a network of roadways. The failure of dispersers to encounter established populations may be a primary cause of the regional decline in *S. franklinii* in the southern portion of its geographic range. In effect, *S. franklinii* may exist as a dysfunctional metapopulation (Levins 1970) in this region where isolated populations (i.e., subpopulations) experience greater losses due to emigration than gains from immigration.

**Effects of habitat.** As already detailed, *S. franklinii* principally occupies savanna-like habitat. This habitat, by its very nature of being a composite of grasslands and woodlands, is habitat that is in flux (Skarpe 1992, Taft 1997); it moves from being dominated by one of these components to the other. In a simplistic sense, in the absence of disturbance (e.g., fire, wind-

storm, drought, or human habitat alteration) a savanna-like habitat will eventually come to be dominated by woodland habitat. Conversely, in the aftermath of disturbance, grassland habitat will dominate. In the case of *S. franklinii*, an occupied site—more specifically, a given habitat patch—may always be fluctuating in size as it responds to disturbance, or lack thereof. This obviously will have a bearing on the population dynamics within that habitat patch. If, for example, a given habitat patch becomes less favorable over time due to changes in vegetation, increased competition within the patch and increased rates of dispersal may result in a population decline at that site. This hypothesis—that the dynamic nature of savanna-like habitat occupied by *S. franklinii* directly influences its population dynamics—needs to be tested to see if it offers a plausible explanation for the variable nature of *S. franklinii* populations.

### Conservation and Threats

It is apparent that *S. franklinii* has experienced declining populations in parts of its geographic range, particularly in the south (Platt *et al.* 1973; Bowles 1981; Johnson and Choromanski-Norris 1992; Lotter 1994; Anthony 1999; DeSanty-Combes 2002; Martin *et al.* 2003; Pergams and Nyberg 2001, 2003). The cause for these declines certainly includes human induced changes of local habitat, but may include other factors as well. In the following paragraphs, I will review known factors responsible for the decline of *S. franklinii* populations, speculate on additional factors, and discuss the current conservation concern for the species.

**Habitat loss and disturbance.** Although *S. franklinii* is not dependent on native or pristine habitat—the squirrel has occupied sites around landfills (Murie 1973) and in the midst of industrial settings (Lotter 1994)—loss of habitat nevertheless has contributed to its decline. As discussed earlier, in the southern portion of the squirrel's geographic range the availability of appropriate habitat is limited primarily to roadside and railroad right-of-ways. It is not surprising, then, to find that *S. franklinii* populations have declined in these regions of decreased habitat availability. Furthermore, while right-of-ways can provide suitable habitat for *S. franklinii*, they are often subject to disturbances that limit their usefulness. Frequent mowing and, more dramatically, lane-widening projects or track removal, may alter a site to the point that it is unsuitable for years to come (Lotter 1994).

Not surprisingly, current *S. franklinii* habitat also is being lost through the construction of subdivisions, as documented by Lotter (1994). As urban sprawl continues to annex wildlife habitat, seemingly unabated, this trend will continue. To date the impacts of urbanization and sprawl have been greatest in the southeastern portion of the geographic range of *S. franklinii* where human populations are highest and where squirrel populations are of greatest conservation concern.

The connectedness of *S. franklinii* populations certainly contributes to the ability of the squirrel to recover from disturbances, whether human induced or otherwise. Erlie and Tester (1984) felt that when their study population of *S. franklinii* dropped to zero in 1965 and 1973, the site was likely repopulated from another population located within 1.5 km. Therefore, if distances that prohibit successful dispersal separate *S. franklinii* populations, then the prolonged existence of small populations—susceptible to various disturbances and other stochastic events—is undoubtedly tenuous. As already suggested, a metapopulation structure with declining subpopulations may aptly describe the existence of *S. franklinii* in portions of its geographic range.

**Conservation status.** In Indiana, where the distribution of *S. franklinii* has diminished to levels that warranted the listing of the species as “Endangered,” the ecological importance of this decline may not be as significant as elsewhere in the species' geographic range. Although Lotter (1994) reported a continued reduction in *S. franklinii* populations since Johnson and Choromanski-Norris (1992), she still found the squirrel at eight sites in three counties, whereas Bailey (1893) reported *S. franklinii* from only two sites in extreme western Indiana. In short, it is likely that *S. franklinii* expanded its range in Indiana as a result of early agricultural practices and subsequently has declined as a result of habitat loss. The continued decline of the species in Indiana almost certainly is reflective of a general trend of increasing urbanization with concomitant habitat loss—especially in the heavily populated northwest corner of the state. These changes of the Indiana landscape should be of ecological concern, because they will affect many of the state's native organisms. However, in regard to *S. franklinii* in Indiana, the species might best be considered rare in the state—as are many other species at the periphery of their geographic ranges.

Elsewhere in the southern portion of its geographic range, particularly in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, *S. franklinii* populations may be occurring well below historic levels. Unfortunately, difficulties in detecting the presence of *S. franklinii*, coupled with its patchy distribution and irregular patterns of occurrence, make surveying for the species challenging and assessing declines even more problematic. With the exceptions of Illinois and Missouri, both of which have been surveyed intensely and systematically for *S. franklinii* in recent years (Hoffmann 1999; DeSanty-Combes 2001, 2002; Martin *et al.* 2003), declines in *S. franklinii* populations elsewhere in the south remain circumstantial, but quite likely. In my own limited efforts, I failed to locate any extant populations of *S. franklinii* in Iowa or Kansas, nor was I able to ascertain the existence of active populations residing within these states from regional biologists.

As I detailed in earlier sections, the availability of appropriate habitat certainly is most limited in the southern portion of the squirrel's geographic range where land use is most intense. In these areas where *S. franklinii* is limited in occurrence primarily to roadside and railroad right-of-ways, the species is extremely susceptible to additional disturbances. The conservation concern that has developed for *S. franklinii* in Illinois is certainly warranted, as it should be in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, at least until further data suggest otherwise.

Elsewhere, particularly in parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, the region where *S. franklinii* historically has been common, the same remains true today. In appropriate locations, *S. franklinii* currently ranges from common to abundant in this region, a fact I verified through personal experience in May and June 2000. The greater prevalence of savanna-like habitat in the northern part of the squirrel's range undoubtedly contributes to its commonness in this region, as alluded to earlier by Sargeant *et al.* (1993). Loss of *S. franklinii* habitat as a result of human activity is also certainly less in the northern portion of the squirrel's geographic range, which is populated at lower human densities.

## CONCLUSIONS

*S. franklinii* is a species that most frequently is associated with habitat characterized by a mix-

ture of grassy and woody vegetation, that is, savanna-like or parkland habitat. The species has had an affinity for this type of habitat throughout its geographic range in recent, historic, and even prehistoric times. As a result of its association with agricultural lands, *S. franklinii* has expanded its geographic range in some areas but also has been subject to eradication programs that have resulted in its local extirpation. Populations of *S. franklinii* are subject to marked fluctuations, the reasons for these being not entirely clear, but which probably are influenced by local disturbances in addition to regular dispersal events. In the southern part of its geographic range, *S. franklinii* is limited in its occurrence principally to roadside and railroad right-of-ways as a result of a lack of other suitable habitat. In these southern regions, *S. franklinii* is justifiably of conservation concern. I suggest that more detailed surveys for the species (such as those that have recently occurred in Illinois and Missouri) take place in Iowa and Kansas.

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## APPENDIX

Given below is the list of 732 Franklin's ground squirrels, *Spermophilus franklinii*, examined and geographically plotted in Figure 2. Specimens are arranged by country of origin, province or state, and county—when given, all in alphabetical order. A key to museum codes (Hafner et al. 1997) follows the list of specimens.

### CANADA

**Alberta:** Athabasca area, T66 R24 Sec. 25, 1 (UMMZ); 1 mi N, 9 mi W Athabasca, 1 (PMA); Beaverhill Lake, 3 (PMA); Belvedere, 1 (CMN); 1 1/2 mi SSW Blackfalds, 1 (MSU); Camrose, 2 (ROM); Camrose, Pelican Lake, 1 (ROM); Chain Lakes, 2 (PMA); Chain Lakes Recreation Area campground, T69N, R23W, Sec. 7, NW 1/4, 1 (UNSM); Beaver River, near Cold Lake, 1 (CMN); Driedmeat Lake, 3 (ROM); Edmonton, 3 (CMN); 2 (ROM); Lac la Nonne, 4 (CMN); Battle River S of Galahad, 1 (CMN); Marwayne, 1 (CMN); near Mayerthorpe, 1 (PMA); Meanook, 1 (PMA); Meeting Creek, 1 (CMN); Morinville, 2 (PMA); Raft Lake, 1 (PMA); Red Deer, 1 (CMN); N Red Deer, Red Deer River, 1 (CMN); Red Lodge, 1 (ROM); Rochon Sands Provincial Park, 1 (PMA); 1 (UNSM); Sandy Lake, 1 (CMN); Sturgeon River, 25 mi N of Edmonton, 2 (NMNH).

**Manitoba:** Aweme, 2 (MMMN), 4 (ROM); Birtle, 1 (MMMN); Carberry, 1 (CMN), 3 (NMNH); 1 km N Cromer, 1 (MMMN); Dauphin, 1 (CMN); Delta, 1 (CMN), 1 (MMN), 2 (MMNH), 11 (MUMZ), 2 (NMNH), 2 (UMMZ), 1 (UWZM); Delta Marsh, 3 (MMMN); Delta Marsh, University Field Station, 8 (MMMN), 1 (UNSM); 1.5 mi W Delta, 1 (ROM); 3 mi E Delta, 1 (ROM); S of Duck Mountain Forest Reserve, 1 (CMN); 3.2 km N, 9.6 km W Dugald, 1 (MMMN); 5.8 km S, 1.6 km E Hadashville, 2 (MMMN); 13.5 km N, 29.6 km W Hodgson, vicinity of Matootoo Lake, 1 (MMMN); Huns Valley, 1 (ROM); 10 km N Libau, 2 (MMMN); Manitoba House, 1 (NMNH); 6.4 km N, 0.8 km W Margaret, 2 (MMMN); Neepawa, 2 (ROM); 13 km S, 7 km W Oak Lake, 2 (MMMN); 11.2 km S Oak Lake, 1 (MMMN); Patricia Beach, 1 (MMMN); Pinawa, Whiteshell Nuclear Research Est., 30 (MMMN); Portage la Prairie vicinity, 1 (ROM); Red Rock Lake, near Rennie, 2 (CMN); Rennie, 1 (MUMZ); Riding Mountain National Park, 1 mi S of S gate, 2 (YPM); Riding Mountain National Park, Lake Andy campground, 1 (YPM); 3.2 km N, 3.2 km E Roseisle, 2 (MMMN); Shoal Lake, 1 (CMN); 11 km N, 4 km E Sprague, 4 (MMMN); 3.2 km NW St. Ambroise, 1 (MMMN); 4.8 km N, 4.8 km W St. Ambroise, 1 (MMMN); St. Ambroise Beach, 3 (MMMN); St. Charles, 1 (ROM); Swan River, 1 (CMN); The Pas, 2 (CMN), 1 (YPM), 1 (MMMN); 4 km SW The Pas, 1 (CMN); University Field Station, 1 (MMMN); Winnipeg, 3/4 mi E on Paul Blvd, 1 (MMMN); Winnipeg, Brockville St. and Wilker Ave., 1 (CMN); Winnipeg, vicinity of Springfield sanitation land fill, 1 (MMMN); Winnipeg, Deer Lodge, 1 (ROM); Winnipeg, St. Vitae, 1 (ROM); Winnipeg, 3 (MMMN), 1 (NMNH), 2 (ROM).

**Ontario:** 1 km NE of Crozier, Crozier TSP, Fort Frances Dist., 1 (ROM); 3 km NW of Stratton, Morley TSP, Fort Frances Dist., 3 (ROM); Long Sault Rapids, Study Site 1, Roseberry TSP, Fort Frances Dist., 1 (ROM); Keewatin, Kenora Dist., 1 (ROM); Royal Lake, 25 mi W of Kenora, Kenora Dist., 1 (ROM); Rainy River, 8 (ROM); Rainy River Dist., 1 (ROM); Carpenter Twp, Rainy River Dist., 1 (ROM); N of Rainy R., Curran TSP, Rainy River Dist., 1 (ROM); 1 1/2 mi upstream from Lake of the Woods on Rainy River, 1 (ROM).

**Saskatchewan:** Broadview, 2 (CMN); Carlton House, 4 (NMNH); 6 mi S Dorintosh, 2 (CMN); Douglas Provincial Park, Middaugh campground, 1 (UNSM); Dundurn, 2 (ROM); Emma Lake, 2 (CM); Emma Lake, Prince Albert Dist., 2 (ROM); 3 (UMMZ); Fort Carlton, 4 (ROM); Good

Spirit Lake Provincial Park, Aspen campground, 2 (UNSM); Indian Head, 5 (CMN); 8 (ROM); Indian Head, Assiniboia, 3 (NMNH); 1 mi W of Lebret, Qu'Appelle Vy., 1 (UMMZ); South arm, Last Mountain Lake, 1 (CMN); Moose Mountain Provincial Park, T10N, R3W, Sec. 24, SE 1/4, 1 (UNSM); Oxbow, 1 (NMNH); Prince Albert, 1 (FMNH); 7 mi S, 2 mi W Prince Albert, 46N, 27W, Sec. 36, NE 1/4, 1 (UNSM); Rokeby, 1 (ROM); Watson, 2 (ROM); Wingard, 5 (NMNH); Katepwe Lake, 2 (ROM); TWP 31, RGE 28, Sec. 6, SW 1/4, 1 (UNSM).

## UNITED STATES

**Illinois:** Carroll Co.: Mount Carroll, 1 (NMNH); Champaign Co.: 2 1/2 mi SE Broadlands, 1 (CM); Champaign, 1 (ISUVC); 1 mi S Champaign, 1 (UIMNH); 1 mi W Champaign on Route 150, 1 (UIMNH); 3 mi S Champaign, 3 (UIMNH); 10 mi N and 2 mi W Champaign, 1 (UIMNH); Mayview, 2 (UIMNH); 4/10 mi W Mayview, 2 (UIMNH); 1.2 mi E Mayview, 1 (UIMNH); 1 1/2 mi E Mayview, 1 (UIMNH); 2 mi E of Mayview, 3 (UIMNH); Mayview Cemetery, 1 (UIMNH); Vic. Parkland College, 1 (UIMNH); 1.2 mi W Saint Joseph, 4 (UIMNH); 1 1/2 mi W Saint Joseph, 1 (UIMNH); Saint Mary's Cemetery, 1 1/2 mi S Champaign, 1 (UIMNH); 2 mi S Savoy, 1 (UIMNH); Seymour, 1 (UIMNH); Urbana, 4 (INHS); E of Urbana, 1 (INHS); Urbana township, 1 (UIMNH); Willard Airport, 1 (UIMNH); Christian Co.: 1/2 mi E Stonington, 1 (UIMNH); Coles Co.: Vic. Mattoon, 1 (UIMNH); Cook Co.: Chicago, 1 (CHAS), 1 (YPM); Chicago Heights, 1 (FMNH); Lemont, 1 (CHAS); West Northfield, 2 (NMNH), 1 (UMMZ); Western Springs, 49th and Fair Elms Ave., 1 (MSB); DuPage Co.: Glen Ellyn, 1 (CHAS); Milton Twp, 3 (CHAS); Fulton Co.: 3 mi W Canton, 1 (UIMNH); 4 mi NW Canton, 1 (UIMNH); 1 mi NW Norris, 2 (UIMNH); Hancock Co.: Warsaw, 1 (FMNH), 3 (NMNH); Kane Co.: 3 mi W Geneva, 1 (FMNH); Lake Co.: Fox Lake, 1 (FMNH); Grays Lake, 7 (CHAS); 1.6 mi N of Mundelein on city limits on Hwy 45, 1 (FMNH); LaSalle Co.: Earlville, 1 (INHS); Livingston Co.: 1 mi S Strawn, 1 (UIMNH); McLean Co.: 1 mi S of Route 9, 1 mi W of Bloomington city limits, 1 (ISU); 4 mi SW of Bloomington city limits on Gulf Mobile and Ohio R. R., 1 (ISU); 6 mi NE Normal, 1 (ISU); 7.5 mi NE Normal, 3 (ISU); Ogle Co.: Oregon, 1 (INHS); Piatt Co.: 1 mi N Monticello (highway), 1 (UIMNH); Vermillion Co.: 10 mi W Danville, 1 (UIMNH); Will Co.: Joliet, 1 (UMMZ); near Lemont (in Cook County), 1 (CHAS).

**Indiana:** Benton Co.: 1 mi S of Atkinson, 1 (NMNH); Fulton Co.: 3 mi W, 1 mi N Rochester, 1 (NMNH); Jasper Co.: 6 mi N, 10 mi E Rensselaer, 1 (NMNH); Lake Co.: Miller, 2 (FMNH); LaPorte Co.: At interchange of Indiana toll road and U. S. 421, 1 (NMNH); Marshall Co.: Tyner, 1 (NMNH); Newton Co.: Lake Village, 6 (UMMZ); Morocco, 2 (ISUVC); Mount Ayr, 3 (NMNH); Porter Co.: Dune Acres, 1 (CHAS); Dunes State Park, 1 (JMM); St. Joseph Co.: 3 mi S of North Liberty, 1 (ISUVC); 2 1/2 mi W, 1 mi S of North Liberty, 1 (NMNH); Walkerton, 1 (NMNH); Tippecanoe Co.: Klondike, 1 (JMM); 1 1/2 mi S of Romney, 1 (NMNH); Wabash Township, 1 (NMNH); White Co.: Shafer Lake, 2 (UMMZ).

**Iowa:** Butler Co.: T90N, R18W, Washington Township, 1 (HMNH); Clay Co.: 9 (UMMZ); Webb, 3 (AMNH); Crawford Co.: Dow City, 1 (CHAS); Des Moines Co.: Burlington, 1 (NMNH); Dickinson Co.: Milford, 1 (UMMZ); Grundy Co.: 5 mi W Grundy Center, 1 (IOWA); Jasper Co.: 1 mi N Prairie City, 1 (KU); Johnson Co.: Iowa City, 1 (AMNH); Louisa Co.: 1 (IOWA); Mahaska Co.: 1 1/2 mi S, 2 mi E New Sharon, 2 (KU); 5 mi N Oskaloosa, 1 (KU); Marion Co.: 1 1/2 mi S, 1 1/2 mi W Pella, 1 (IOWA); Mills Co.: 1 mi N, 5 mi W Malvern, 1 (BVC); Monona Co.: 2 mi N Pisgah, 1 (BVC); 1 mi N, 3 1/2 mi W Whiting, South Badger Lake, 1 (IOWA); Montgomery Co.: 11.1 mi E Red Oak, 1 (MSB); Muscatine Co.: Conesville, 1 (NMNH); Story Co.: Ames, 3 (NMNH); Franklin Township, 1 (MSU).

**Kansas:** Allen Co.: 5 1/2 mi N of Moran, 1 (KU); Douglas Co.: 2 1/2 mi NW Eudora, 1 (KU); Lawrence, 3 (KU); KU campus, Lawrence, 1 (KU); 1 1/2 mi E, 1 3/4 mi N Lawrence, 1 (KU); 2 mi S Lawrence, E. Haskell Bottoms, 1 (CMN); 2 mi N, 1.6 mi E Douglas Co. courthouse, Lawrence, 1 (KU); 2 mi E, 2 mi N Lawrence, 1 (KU); near Lawrence, 2 1/2 mi S, 1/4 mi W No. 6 school house, S side of Wakarusa Creek, 1 (KU); 3 mi SW Lawrence, 1 (KU); 3 mi S Lawrence, 1 (KU); 3 mi N Lawrence, 1 (KU); 3 1/2 mi S Lawrence, 1 (KU); 4 mi N of Lawrence, between Teepee junction and R. R. tracks, 2 (KU); 7 1/2 mi SW Lawrence, 1 (KU); Greenwood Co.: Hamilton, 1 (KU); Jewell Co.: 20 mi E Smith Center, 1 (KU); T15, R7W, Sec. 14, NW 1/4, 3 (MHP); McPherson Co.: Smokey Hill River, 1 mi S, 1/2 mi W Lindsborg, 2 (KU); 1/2 mi E McPherson, 4 (KU); Mitchell Co.: 3 1/2 mi W, 1/2 mi S Beloit, 1 (KU); Phillips Co.: 1 1/2 mi W Glade, T4S, R18W, Sec. 22, SW 1/4, 1 (MHP); 1 mi N, 6 1/4 mi W Kirwin, T4S, R17W, Sec. 21, S 1/2, 1 (MHP); 1 3/4 mi S, 4 mi W Kirwin, T5S, R17W, Sec. 1, SW 1/4, 1 (MHP); 10.8 mi N Phillipsburg, 1 (MHP); Pottawatomie Co.: 3 mi NW of St. Mary's, 1 (KU); Onaga, 1 (NMNH); Republic Co.: Agenda, 1 (KU); Riley Co.: Manhattan, 1 (KU); Woodson Co.: Neosho Falls, 3 (KU).

**Minnesota:** Beltrami Co.: 1/4 mi NE Redby, 4 (MMNH); Big Stone Co.: Big Stone Lake State Park, T122N, R47W, Sec. 10, SE 1/4 of SE 1/4, 1 (MMNH); Ortonville, 11 (NMNH); Ortonville, Elk River, 1 (CMN); Blue Earth Co.: 3 mi S Minnesota Lake, 1 (SHMC); Rapidan, 1 (INHS); Cass Co.: Cass Lake, 2 (NMNH); 2 mi SE Winnie Dam, T145N, R27W, Sec. 35, E 1/2, Chipewewa Forest, 1 (MMNH); Clay Co.: 1 1/2 mi W Buffalo River State Park, 1 (UIMNH); Moorhead (Bosshard Farm), 1 (CM); T141N, R46W, Sec. 24, NW 1/4, 1 (MMNH); Clearwater Co.: W of Itasca Park, 1 (MMNH); Biological Station, Itasca Park, garbage pile, 1 (MMNH); Itasca State Park, 1 (JMM); Grant Co.: 3 mi NW of Barrett, 1 (UMMZ); 4 mi NW of Barrett, 1 (UMMZ); Setan WPA, T130N, R43W, Sec. 25, NE 1/4, 1 (UNSM); Stony Brook Township, T130N, R43W, Sec. 24, 1 (UNSM); Hennepin Co.: Ft. Snelling, 1 (FMNH), 4 (NMNH); Hubbard Co.: Lake Alice Store, T143N, R35W, Sec. 22, NE 1/4 of SW 1/4, 5 (MMNH); Isanti Co.: 5 mi E of Hwy 65 along Cty Rd. 12, T34N, R22W, Sec. 18, 1 (MMNH); Kandiyohi Co., T121N, R35W, Sec. 27, NW 1/4, 1 (MMNH); Lac Qui Parle Co.: 1 mi N, 9 mi E Bellingham, T119N, R43W, Sec. 6, NW 1/4 of NW 1/4, 1 (MMNH); Madison, 2 (MCZ); Lake of the Woods Co.: Williams, 1 (KU), 2 (MMNH); LeSuer Co.: T112N, R24W, Sec. 23, 1 (MMNH); Mahanomen Co.: 8 mi E Mahanomen, 1 (UMMZ); Marshall Co.: Holt, 1 (MMNH); Morrison Co.: Cushing, 2 (MSB); Ottertail Co.: Fergus Falls, east of town, 2 (MMNH); Lake Lizzie, 1 (CM); Pine Co.: Bruno, 1 (MMNH); Polk Co.: 3 mi S, 7 mi E of Crookston, T149N, R45W, Sec. 17, Pankratz Prairie, 2 (MMNH); Pope Co.: 7 mi S of Glenwood, 1 (MMNH); Rice Co.: Northfield, 1 (MMNH); Shieldsville Twp., Sec. 12, 1 (MMNH); Roseau Co.: Warroad, 1 (MMNH); Sherburne Co.: Elk River, 11 (NMNH), 2 (ROM), 1 (UMMZ), 1 (UWZM); Sibley Co.: 1 mi N of Gibbon, 1 (MMNH); St. Louis Co.: 1/4 mi E Adolph, 1 (MHP); 8 mi S, 1 mi W Hoyt Lakes, T57N, R14W, Sec. 19, SE 1/4, 1 (MMNH); Saginaw, 3 (KU); Traverse Co., Brown's Valley, 3 (MMNH); near Brown's Valley, 5 (NMNH); 6 mi W of Wheaton, 1 (MMNH); Wadena Co.: T134N, R35W, Sec. 8, NE 1/4, 1 (MMNH); Wilkin Co.: 3 mi S of Rothsay, 1 (MMNH); Wright Co.: Maple Lake, 1 (MMNH).

**Missouri:** Adair Co.: 1 mi N LaPlata, 1 (NEMSU); 2 mi SE Millard, 1 (CM), 2 (NEMSU); Buchanan Co.: St. Joseph, 1 (MUMZ); 1 mi E St. Joseph, 2 (MUMZ); Caldwell Co.: Hamilton, 1 (MUMZ); Chariton Co.: Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, along railroad dump, 2 (MUMZ); Clark Co.: 3 mi W, 2 mi S Alexandria, 2 (NEMSU); 1 mi E Medill, 1 (NEMSU); Clinton Co.: Trimble Wildlife Area, 2 (MUMZ); Knox Co.: 3 mi SE Knox City (Hwy 6), 1 (NEMSU); Lafayette Co.: Wellington, 1 (MUMZ); Macon Co.: 4 mi N Macon, 2 (CM); 4 mi N Macon, 1 (NEMSU); 8 mi N Macon, 1 (CM).

**Nebraska:** Antelope Co.: Neligh, 1 (UNSM); 1/4 mi N, 1/2 mi W Oakdale, 1 (UMMZ); Boone Co.: Albion, west road of fairgrounds, 1 (MHP); near Albion, 1 (MHP); 1/2 mi W, 1/2 mi S of Albion, 1 (MHP); 6 mi E of Albion, 1 (MHP); Buffalo Co.: Kearney, 1 (NMNH); Custer Co.: 1 mi S Gavin, 1 (UMMZ); Dawson Co.: E of Gothenburg, 1 (UNSM); Dodge Co.: Ames, 1 (NMNH); Douglas Co.: Omaha, 1 (YPM); Omaha, 108th and E St. intersection, 2 (MSB); Omaha, Henry Doorly Zoo, 3 (UNSM); Stolley Prairie, T15N, R11E, Sec. 15, NW 1/4, 3 (UNSM); Garfield Co.: 3 mi N, 4 1/2 mi W Burwell, 1 (VMKSC); Harlan Co.: 1 mi S, 0.5 mi E of Orleans, 1 (VMKSC); Hitchcock Co.: 6 mi E of Palisade, 1 (VMKSC); Hooker Co.: Kelso, 8 (UMMZ); Knox Co.: Niobrara, 1 (NMNH); Verdigre, 1 (NMNH); Lancaster Co.: Lincoln, 1 (MVZ); Lincoln, Capital Beach Lake, 1 (NMNH); Lincoln, Mopak bike trail, T10N, R7E, Sec. 26, NW 1/4, 2 (UNSM); Lincoln Co.: North Platte, 1 (MSB); Nemaha Co.: 1/2 mi N, 1 mi E Peru, 1 (MHP); Platte Co.: Columbus, 2 (NMNH); Red Willow Co.: 2.4 mi W Cambridge, 1 (VMKSC); Richardson Co.: Falls City, 1 (KU); 3 mi S Rulo, 1 (KU); Sarpy Co.: Chalco Hills Recreation Area, T14N, R11E, Sec. 23, SW 1/4, 1 (UNSM); Thurston Co.: 1 mi S Winnebago, 1 (KU); Webster Co.: Red Cloud, 1 (UNSM).

**North Dakota:** Barnes Co.: Kathryn, 1 (NMNH); Benson Co.: Minnewaukan, 1 (FMNH), 1 (UWZM); Burke Co.: Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, T160N, R91W, Sec. 35, NW 1/4, 3 (UNSM); Cass Co.: Fargo, 1 (NMNH); Harwood, 2 (NMNH); Dickey Co.: Oakes, 3 (FMNH), 3 (NMNH); Foster Co.: Bordulac, 2 (UWZM); Grand Forks Co.: 3 mi E of Emerado, 2 (NMNH); Grand Forks, 1 (NMNH); 4 (ROM); Larimore, 2 (NMNH); Kidder Co.: 1/2 mi N Pettibone, 1 (UMMZ); LaMoure Co.: LaMoure, 1 (NMNH); Nelson Co.: Stump Lake, 2 (NMNH); Pembina Co.: Pembina, 12 (NMNH), 1 (YPM); Walhalla, 2 (NMNH); Ramsey Co.: Devil's Lake, 3 (UMMZ); Richland Co.: 5 mi NE Fairmount, near Sioux River, 13 (NMNH); Rolette Co.: 1 mi N Dunseith, 1 (MVZ); 5 mi E Dunseith, 1 (MVZ); 7 mi NE Dunseith, 2 (MVZ); Turtle Mountains, Lake Upsilon, 2 (UMMZ); Sargent Co.: Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, 12 (UNSM); Stutsman Co.: Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge, T143N, R63W, Sec. 6, NW 1/4, 1 (UNSM); 3 mi NW Buchanan, 1 (UCM); James River, 10 mi S Jamestown, 5 (UCM); Walsh Co.: Grafton, 2 (UNSM); Ward Co.: Baden, 1 (MSB), 1 (KU).

**South Dakota:** Bon Homme Co.: Scotland, 1 (NMNH); Brown Co.: 2 mi N, 3 mi W of Houghton, 2 (KU); Clay Co.: 6 1/2 mi N, 1 1/2 mi W Vermillion, 1 (MSB); Day Co.: 1 (MSU); Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, 3 (UIMNH); Webster, 3 (CHAS); Marshall Co.: Fort Sisseton, 5 (NMNH); Roy Lake State Park, 5 (KU); Moody Co.: Flandreau, 1 (NMNH); Roberts Co.: 4 mi S of Blackmer (in North Dakota), 4 (NMNH); Trip Co.: Dog Ear Lake, 1 (UMMZ); 5 mi SE Colome, 1 (UMMZ); Union Co.: 4 1/2 mi NW Jefferson, 1 (MSB).

**Wisconsin:** Columbia Co.: Portage, 1 (UWZM); Dane Co.: Madison, University of Wisconsin Arboretum, 2 (UWZM); Dodge Co.: Beaver Dam, 6 (UWZM); Portage Co.: 2 mi S Junction City, 1 (UWSP); T23N, R7E, Sec. 2, N 1/2 of SE 1/4, 1 (UWSP); 1 mi W Hwy N, 1 (UWSP); Racine Co.: Racine, 1 (NMNH); Rock Co.: Milton, 1 (UWZM); Walworth Co.: Delavan, 2 (CHAS); 4 (NMNH); Lane's Mill, 5 (AMNH); Waukesha Co.: T6N, R19E, Sec. 14, NW 1/4 of SW 1/4, 1 (MMNH); Wood Co.: 3/4 mi SE Arpin, 1 (UWSP).

**Museum Key:** American Museum of Natural History (AMNH); Buena Vista College (BVC); Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN); Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CM); Chicago Academy of Sciences (CHAS); Earlham College, Joseph Moore Museum (JMM); Fort Hays State University, Sternberg Museum of Natural History (MHP); Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ); Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS); Illinois State University (ISU); Indiana

State University (ISUVC); Kearney State University, Vertebrate Museum (VMKSC); Luther College, Sherman A. Hoslett Museum of Natural History (HMH); Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature (MMM); Michigan State University Museum (MSU); Provincial Museum of Alberta (PMA); Royal Ontario Museum (ROM); The Field Museum (FMNH); Truman State University (NEMSU); United States National Museum of Natural History (USNM); University of California, Berkeley, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ); University of Colorado Museum (UCM); University of Illinois, Museum of Natural History (UIMNH); University of Iowa, Museum of Natural History (IOWA); University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History (KU); University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology (UMMZ); University of Minnesota, James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History (MMNH); University of Missouri, Museum of Zoology (MUMZ); University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM); University of New Mexico, Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB); University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Museum of Natural History (UWSP); University of Wisconsin, Zoological Museum (UWZM); Yale University, Peabody Museum of Natural History (YPM).

APPENDIX TABLE 1. Tabulation of specific accounts of Franklin’s ground squirrel, *Spermophilus franklinii*, reported in the text that address *S. franklinii* populations and habitat use. Citations are arranged by the section in which they occur. Citations are taken from both text and tables appropriate to that section.

Year	Section in which citations occur	Characterization of population(s)			Characterization of habitat		
		Common, abundant, increasing, or a pest	Uncommon, rare, or declining	Fluctuating or variable in occurrence	Prairie <sup>1</sup>	Savanna <sup>2</sup>	Woodland <sup>3</sup>
Pre-1950	North America	Coues and Allen 1877				Coues and Allen 1877	
	Canada					Soper in Sowls 1948	
	Alberta	Preble 1908	Loring <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1894			Preble 1908	
	Manitoba		Soper 1921			Soper 1921	
		Seton 1910 Bird 1927 Criddle 1929 Green 1932 Soper 1946		McLeod 1933 Sowls 1948		Seton 1910 Sowls 1948	Bird 1927
	Ontario				Snyder 1938		
	Saskatchewan	Loring <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1895				Richardson 1829 Loring <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1895	
	United States					Bailey 1893	

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Appendix Table 1 continued

Year	Section in which citations occur	Characterization of population(s)			Characterization of habitat		
		Common, abundant, increasing, or a pest	Uncommon, rare, or declining	Fluctuating or variable in occurrence	Prairie <sup>1</sup>	Savanna <sup>2</sup>	Woodland <sup>3</sup>
Pre-1950	Illinois	Kennicott 1855	Coleman <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1892	Kennicott 1857	Kennicott 1855	Kennicott 1857	
	Indiana		Lyon 1932		Wood 1910		
			Lyon 1936		Hahn 1909		
					Lyon 1932		
					Lyon 1936		
	Iowa	Allen 1871	Coleman <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1892	Stoner 1918	Spurrell 1917	Stoner 1918	
		Van Hyning and Pellet 1910					
		Ruthven and Wood 1912					
		Gabrielson 1921					
	Kansas	Bailey 1893	Knox 1875		Lindsdale 1928	Kellogg 1915	
		Kellogg 1915	Lantz 1905			Black 1937	
		Black 1937					
	Minnesota	Bailey 1888	Herrick 1892	Swanson <i>et al.</i> 1945	Bailey 1888	Bailey 1888	Augstin <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1930



Nebraska	Herrick 1892	Bailey 1893	Herrick 1892
	Johnson 1930	Murie <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1919	Johnson 1922
		Bailey <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1932	Johnson 1930
			Bailey <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1932
			Swanson <i>et al.</i> 1945
North Dakota	Aughey 1880	Warren 1875	Aughey 1880
	Coleman <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1892	Bailey <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1894	Coleman <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1892
	Bailey <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1893	Lautz <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1910	
	Cary <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1903		
	Swenk 1908		
	Coues and Allen 1877	Murie <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1919	Bailey 1888
		Fisher <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1893	
	Bailey 1888		Bailey 1893
	Williams <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1912		Fisher <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH 1893

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Appendix Table 1 continued

Year	Section in which citations occur	Characterization of population(s)			Characterization of habitat		
		Common, abundant, increasing, or a pest	Uncommon, rare, or declining	Fluctuating or variable in occurrence	Prairie <sup>1</sup>	Savanna <sup>2</sup>	Woodland <sup>3</sup>
	South Dakota	Eastgate <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1912				Williams <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1912	
		Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1914				Eastgate <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1912	
		Sheldon <i>in lit.</i> ,				Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1914	
		NMNH archives, 1915					
		Kellogg <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1915				Kellogg <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1915	
	Wisconsin	Bailey <i>in lit.</i> , NMNH archives, 1893					
		Over and Churchill 1945					
			Bailey 1893	Snyder 1902	Strong 1883	Hollister 1908	
				Jackson 1908	Snyder 1902	Schmidt 1931	
Post-1950	North America			Hollister 1908	Jackson 1908		
			Pergams and Nyberg 2003		Hall and Kelson 1959	Murie 1999	
					Pergams and Nyberg 2003		
					NatureServe 2004		

Canada	Banfield 1974	Banfield 1974	Banfield 1974
Alberta		Smith 1993	Soper 1964
			Keith and Cary 1991
			Murie 1973
			Keith and Cary 1991
			Smith 1993
Manitoba	Soper 1961a	Soper 1953	Tamsitt 1962
	Tamsitt 1962	Wrigley 1974	Iverson and Turner 1972
			Wrigley 1974
			Burachynsky and Galloway 1985
			Reichardt and Galloway 1994
Saskatchewan			Soper 1951
Illinois	Hoffmeister and Mohr 1957	Scott <i>et al.</i> 1959	Anderson 1951
	Scott <i>et al.</i> 1959	Van Petten and Schramm 1972	Gray 1972
		Panzer and Schipp 1986	Van Petten and Schramm 1972
			Beck 1958
			Hoffmeister and Mohr 1957
			Martin and Heske 2004

Appendix Table 1 continued

Year	Section in which citations occur	Characterization of population(s)			Characterization of habitat		
		Common, abundant, increasing, or a pest	Uncommon, rare, or declining	Fluctuating or variable in occurrence	Prairie <sup>1</sup>	Savanna <sup>2</sup>	Woodland <sup>3</sup>
Post-1950			Lewis and Rongstad 1992		Krohne <i>et al.</i> 1973		
			Hoffmann 1999		Krohne and Schramm 1992		
			Martin <i>et al.</i> 2003		Hoffmeister 1989		
			Pergams and Nyberg 2001		Pergams and Nyberg 2001		
Indiana			Mumford 1969		Johnson and Choromanski-Norris 1992	Mumford and Whitaker 1982	
			Johnson and Choromanski-Norris 1992				
			Lotter 1994				
Iowa			Bowles 1981	Bowles 1975	Polder 1965		
					Bowles 1981		
Kansas			Clarke <i>et al.</i> 1958		Hall 1955	Brumwell 1951	
			Hall 1955		Platt <i>et al.</i> 1973	Cockrum 1952	

Minnesota	Lewis 1988	Bee <i>et al.</i> 1981	Bee <i>et al.</i> 1981
		Platt <i>et al.</i> 1973	Andersen and Fleharty 1967
			Gunderson and Beer 1953
Missouri	Ellis 1982		Lewis 1988
		DeSanty-Combes 2002	Haggerty 1968 Robins 1970–1971 Hazard 1982
			Ellis 1982 Schwartz and Schwartz 1981 Ellis 1982 DeSanty-Combes 2001
Nebraska	Haberman and Fleharty 1971	Jones 1964	Jones 1964
			Manning and Geluso 1989
North Dakota			Haberman and Fleharty 1971
South Dakota			Choromanski-Norris <i>et al.</i> 1989
Wisconsin			Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2000
		Anthony 1999 Lewis and Rongstad 1992	Jackson 1961

<sup>1</sup>=Habitat description includes no mention of woody vegetation, only grasses and forbs.  
<sup>2</sup>=Habitat description includes mention of both grassy and woody vegetation.  
<sup>3</sup>=Habitat description includes mention of only woody vegetation





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