

**A POCKET LIST OF THE
MAMMALS OF EASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE ESSEX COUNTRY**

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A Pocket List of the Mammals of Eastern Massachusetts with Special Reference Essex Country
by C. Emerson Brown

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C. EMERSON BROWN

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MAMMALS OF EASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE ESSEX COUNTRY**



GROUP OF HARBOR SEALS IN BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY BY C. EMERSON BROWN.
From Sand Dunes and Salt Marshes by Charles W. Townsend, M. D.

A POCKET LIST
OF THE
Mammals of Eastern Massachusetts

WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO

ESSEX COUNTY

BY

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PREFACE.

The study of Mammals in the field is one of the most interesting pursuits to a student of Natural History and it is only by very careful and persistent work that one can become at all proficient in it. Many of the Mammals do not come out at all in the day time, and those that do, move about so noiselessly that they are seldom seen except by the trained eye. Their signs, however, are always present and by closely studying them one may learn much of their habits and consequently be enabled to see them much more frequently. A walk in winter after a light fall of snow is doubly interesting, for then from the tiny shrew to the Antlered Buck all are on the move and their tracks may be plainly recognized and easily followed. At such a time one is surprised at the great number of tracks to be found. I have walked through the woods late in the fall without seeing a mammal of any kind and the next day after a snow have taken the same walk and found the snow literally covered with tracks.

In this list I have made no attempt at full description. Most of the species I have either described in part or compared with others to render identification easy. I have included in it several species which, although they have not been actually taken within the county limits, doubtless live here. It is hoped that this list may create an interest in the Essex County collection, and that it may be the means of adding many new specimens to the museum. A list of desiderata is added at the end of this list, and any specimens therein named will be very gratefully received and acknowledged.

In the making of this list I am greatly indebted to Dr. Glover M. Allen for his kindness in looking it over and for many helpful suggestions and to Professor E. S. Morse for revising manuscript.

MAMMALIA.

Order Cetacea.

Whales, Porpoises, and Dolphins.

This group of mammals living wholly in the water as they do have become so modified that there is very little resemblance externally to the class of animals to which they belong. And they are continually confused with the fishes by a great many people. Mammals of this order are seldom seen and not easily recognized. They are entirely carnivorous, their food consisting of fishes, mollusks and crustaceans. They often travel in "schools," sometimes containing hundreds of individuals.

FAMILY BALAENIDAE.

Right Whale; Black Whale; Nord-Caper, *Eubalaena glacialis* (Bonnaterre).

This whale is of large size, a full grown specimen measuring 50 to 60 ft. The head is nearly equal to 1-3 of the total length. Color black, sometimes varied with white beneath. They have no fin on the back which serves to distinguish them from the Finback or Humpback. Its range is the North Atlantic Ocean, and although there is no definite record of this species having been captured within the county limits, it no doubt occurs off shore. Scammon states that the Right Whale sometimes yields 130 bbls. of oil and 1550 lbs. of whalebone.* See Plate 1.

Humpback Whale. *Megaptera nodosa* (Bonnaterre).

This whale has been seen off Marblehead. It occurs rarely. Description in a general way much like the Finback, except back strongly convexed, flippers very long and scalloped on edge, color black above, white beneath. See Plate 1.

*Marine Mammals and Whale Fisheries, p. 66.

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Little piked whale. *Balaenoptera acuto-rostrata*
Lacépède.

Length from 10 to 35 ft. Easily recognized by its small size, large head, presence of "whale-bone" in the mouth. Deep longitudinal furrows on throat. Color black above, pinkish-white beneath, a white band around the flippers 5 or 6 in. wide. Often taken for a young right whale. The only record for the county is an imperfect skull dredged up at Pigeon Cove in 1881 and sent to the National Museum at Washington, D. C. In August, 1910, a specimen came ashore at Provincetown. A cast of this specimen is now on exhibition at the Boston Society of Natural History. See Plate 2.

Common Finback whale; Finback. *Balaenoptera physalus* (Linne).

Common off our coast. Length 40 to 50 feet. Head equal or rather less than 1-4 the total length. A fleshy dorsal fin is present. Color black above, white beneath, and mottled on the side. It is said to be a more active and rapid swimmer than the Right Whale. See Plate 1.

Sulphur-bottom; Blue Whale. *Balaenoptera musculus* (Linne).

This is the giant of all whales. Length 70 to 90 feet. It is a pelagic species and is usually seen well off shore. Color brownish gray above, sulphur yellow beneath. The Dorsal fin lies well back and is very small and thin. The only record is of one which was cast ashore on King's Beach at Lynn.* See Plate 2.

FAMILY PHYSETERIDÆ.

Sperm whale; Cachalot. *Physeter macrocephalus*
(Linne).

Color brownish black above, lighter below. This species probably occurs rarely off the coast. It is one of our largest whales, a full grown specimen measuring from 60 to 80 ft. Head oblong, level with back, square and trun-

*Felt's History of Lynn and Salem.