

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT ASSOCIATIONS: This western intermountain species potentially occurs statewide, but is so uncommon that it has been identified from only 11 localities. Habitats in and around Wyoming are variably reported as moist sites in subalpine forest, alpine meadows, grasslands, and mountain mahogany.⁵ Specimens from Colorado have typically been collected at 1370–2920 m (4500–9600 ft) elevation.⁶

ECOLOGY: Only 106 specimens had been collected from throughout the species' known range by 1977, so it is not well known, aside from the habitats in which it is caught. It has been identified from the pellets of great horned owls.⁷

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT: The conservation concern regarding this mammal results from its uncommonness and our lack of understanding of population status or habitat requirements.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Armstrong and Jones (1971).
2. Hoffmeister (1986).
3. Commission Regulations Chapter 52, Section 11.
4. Diersing and Hoffmeister (1977), but see Hall (1981).
5. Long and Kerfoot (1963), Brown (1967a), Armstrong et al. (2011).
6. Armstrong et al. (2011).
7. Long and Kerfoot (1963).

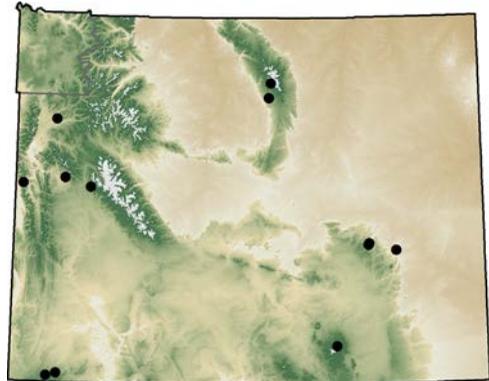
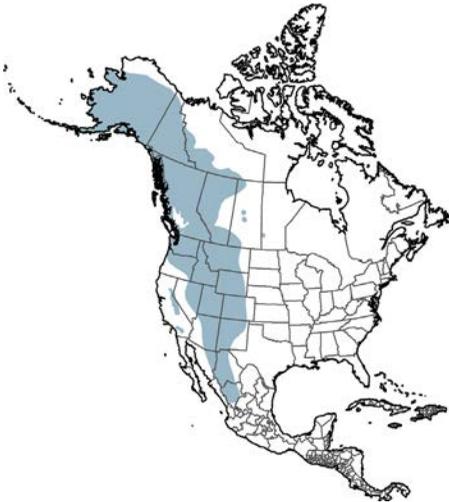
Dusky shrew, *Sorex monticolus*

DESCRIPTION: A small to medium-sized shrew with a long tail. Compared to the very similar *S. vagrans*, this shrew has medial tines on its upper incisors that are large and positioned below the upper limit of the pigmentation on the upper incisors. The third unicuspid is smaller than the fourth. The toes are longer than for *S. vagrans*, and have more (5–6) paired callosities on hind digits 2–4 (*S. vagrans* has four or fewer). The latter character can only be used on fresh or liquid-preserved specimens.¹ Measurements (**Sex** [n] mean (mm, g), **range**): various Wyoming counties; Routt County, Colorado, L = F [19] 103, 87–112; M [5] 108, 100–119; TL = F [19] 43, 35–48; M [5] 42, 41–49; HF = F [19] 12, 11–14; M [5] 11, 11–12; WT = F [19] 4.2, 2.8–6.7; M [5] 6.2, 3.8–10.² Dental formula: 3/1, 1/1, 3/1, 3/3 = 32.

STATUS: A non-protected nongame animal by regulation.³

NOMENCLATURE AND SYSTEMATICS: The species was first described in the late nineteenth century and has carried the original scientific name without revision. This species is in the *S. vagrans* species group, and *S. monticolus* and *S. vagrans* were regarded by some biologists as conspecific before 1977, so literature prior to that date may refer to either species.⁴ Around 18 subspecies were recognized as of 1996; these are mostly disjunct on coastal islands or mountain ranges. The subspecies in Wyoming extends to the Arctic Ocean: *S. m. obscurus*. The common name “montane shrew” also is used.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT ASSOCIATIONS: This primarily Cordilleran species occurs in montane coniferous forests in all the major mountain ranges in the state; no records are



Locations from which the dusky shrew has been identified in Wyoming.

known for the Black Hills. The species was represented by Clark and Stromberg (1987) as occurring in the Green and Ferris Mountains and isolated, conifer-forested ridges in southern Sweetwater County, but there are no known specimens associated with these reports.⁵ The species is variously reported from montane forested habitats, regenerating clear-cuts with herbaceous cover, pinyon–juniper woodlands, shrub-steppe dominated by low sagebrush, and big sagebrush–antelope bitterbrush.⁶ The only feature that all these habitats share is abundant physical structure near the ground.⁷

ECOLOGY: The diet is typical of shrews, comprising mostly surface-dwelling invertebrates, conifer seeds, and some fungi. Little else is known about the ecology of the species.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT: The species is common and widely distributed; it is not generally considered a conservation concern.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. van Zyll de Jong (1982), Smith and Belk (1996).
2. DMNS, KU specimens.
3. Commission Regulations Chapter 52, Section 6.
4. Hennings and Hoffman (1977).
5. Clark and Stromberg (1987).
6. Smith and Belk (1996), Sutter et al. (1999).
7. Belk et al. (1990).

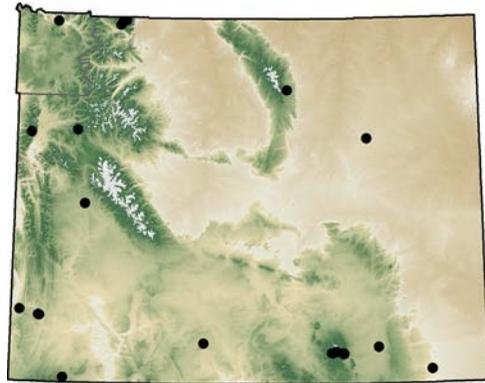
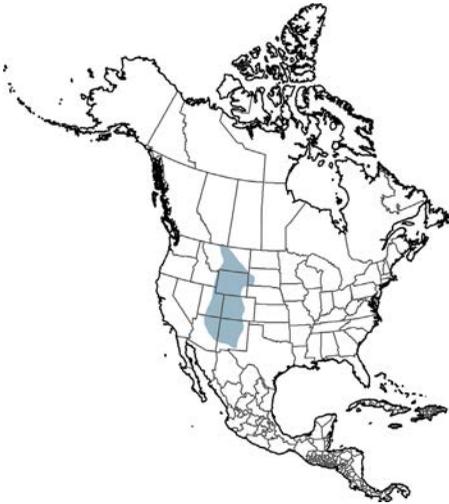
Dwarf shrew, *Sorex nanus*

DESCRIPTION: A small shrew with brown to buff dorsal pelage; the underside is smoke gray. The third and fifth unicuspid teeth are smaller than the fourth, as for *S. monticolus* and *S. vagrans*.¹ The tail is subtly bicolored. Measurements (**Sex** [n] mean (mm, g), *range*): various counties, Colorado, L = **B** [11] 84, 77–94; TL = **B** [12] 41, 37–47; HF = **B** [11] 11, 9–12; WT = **B** [11] 2.1, 1.5–3.² Dental formula: 3/1, 1/1, 3/1, 3/3 = 32.

STATUS: A protected nongame animal and state Species of Greatest Conservation Need as of 2012.³

NOMENCLATURE AND SYSTEMATICS: The species was first described in the late nineteenth century as a subspecies of *S. tenellus*, then raised to species level in 1928.¹ Subspecies have not been named, in spite of its disjunct distribution across the Rocky Mountains. The common name “Rocky Mountain dwarf shrew” also is used.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT ASSOCIATIONS: This central and northern Rocky Mountain species was first detected in Wyoming in the Snowy Range of the Medicine Bow Mountains in 1947.⁴ A capture in South Cascade Canyon of the Teton Mountains in



Locations from which the dwarf shrew has been identified in Wyoming.