

Habitat Model for Species: **Virginia Opossum**

Didelphis virginiana

[Distribution Map](#) [Habitat Map](#)

Landcover Category

0 - Comments

[#KS GAP]

30 m edge of selected grasslands (17,22) adjacent to selected riparian forests (4,5,6,8,9,11).

Habitat Restrictions

01 - Maple-Basswood Forest

Rosenblatt et al., 1999

02 - Oak-Hickory Forest

Fitch and Rainey, 1956

Fitch and Sandidge, 1953

Rosenblatt et al., 1999

Sandidge, 1953

Fitch and Shirer, 1970

[#Reviewer]

04 - Pecan Floodplain Forest

McManus, 1974

05 - Ash-Elm-Hackberry Floodplain Forest

Andersen and Fleharty, 1967

Choate and Fleharty, 1975

Finck et al., 1986

Fitch and Sandidge, 1953

Choate, 1967

McManus, 1974

Pitts et al., 1987

Whitmer, 1966

Smrcka, 1974

Sandidge, 1953

Reynolds, 1945

[#Reviewer]

Comments

dens located either in hillside limestone ledges (67%) or gullies (15%); dens in gullies had entrances among tangled tree roots

rock ledges provided an abundance of den sites; use woodland edge; activity concentrated along small streams and along rock ledges; focal site for foraging was pond (crayfish and frogs)

greatest distance between dens and water about 1200 ft, but in most cases was within 420 feet of den

Gipson : During telemetry studies at Ft. Riley we found opossums used dens in hollow sections of trees.

opossums typically found in wetter areas, particularly near streams; often follow water courses; preys upon insects and carrion, fruits and grain in season; association chosen from habitat description in Mammalian Species account

51% of den nesting cavities located on rocky slopes; farthest any individual was captured from water was about 750 feet

common in riparian communities; prefers brushy habitats

prefers brushy and woody habitats, in or near riparian woodlands, woody outcrops

rock ledges provided an abundance of den sites; use woodland edge; activity concentrated along small streams and along rock ledges; focal site for foraging was pond (crayfish and frogs)

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this was most preferred habitat, partly exposed roots by stream banks provided natural dens; greatest distance between dens and water about 1200 ft, but in most cases was within 420 feet of den

Gipson : During telemetry studies at Ft. Riley we found opossums used dens in hollow sections of trees.

06 - Cottonwood Floodplain Forest

McManus, 1974

opossums typically found in wetter areas, particularly near streams; often follow water courses; preys upon insects and carrion, fruits and grain in season; association chosen from habitat description in Mammalian Species account

Lacki et al., 1991

08 - Bur Oak Floodplain Woodland

McManus, 1974

opossums typically found in wetter areas, particularly near streams; often follow water courses; preys upon insects and carrion, fruits and grain in season; association chosen from habitat description in Mammalian Species account

Pitts et al., 1987

09 - Mixed Oak Ravine Woodland

Finck et al., 1986

prefers brushy and woody habitats, in or near riparian woodlands, woody outcrops

McManus, 1974

opossums typically found in wetter areas, particularly near streams; often follow water courses; preys upon insects and carrion, fruits and grain in season; association chosen from habitat description in Mammalian Species account

11 - Cottonwood Floodplain Woodland

Andersen and Fleharty, 1967

Anderson and Nelson, 1958

McManus, 1974

opossums typically found in wetter areas, particularly near streams; often follow water courses; preys upon insects and carrion, fruits and grain in season; association chosen from habitat description in Mammalian Species account

Walker, 1978

limited to riparian communities along Republican River and its tributaries (taken on farmsteads adjacent to river)

Whitmer, 1966

Sandidge, 1953

17 - Tallgrass Prairie

Gipson and Kamler, 2001

review : Opossums were occasionally found on
(4,5,6,8,9,11)

SUBOPTIMAL habitat

Map 30 m edge adjacent to selected riparian forests Gipson

prairie at Fort Riley, but they were most commonly found in riparian forests. The most common cause of death was predation by coyotes.

[#Reviewer]

Map 30 m edge adjacent to selected riparian forests
(4,5,6,8,9,11)

Kaufman

22 - Mixed Prairie

Choate and Fleharty, 1975

occasionally traverses prairie if adequate cover (lowland prairie dominated by big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), annual sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), Mexican fireweed (*Kochia scoparia*))

Choate, 1989

[#Reviewer]

Map 30 m edge adjacent to selected riparian forests
(4,5,6,8,9,11)

Kaufman

1 opossum captured

33 - Cattail Marsh

Lacki et al., 1991

40 - Non-native Grassland

Sandidge, 1953

MARGINAL habitat

44 - Cultivated Land

Sandidge, 1953

Stieglitz and Klimstra, 1962

MARGINAL habitat

corn was one of the important food items for opossum

Verts, 1963

crops: oats and corn; SUBOPTIMAL habitat

50 - Deciduous Forest-Mined Land

Fitch and Rainey, 1956

55 - Deciduous Woodland

Fitch and Rainey, 1956

Rose, 1989

Whitmer, 1966

deciduous woods consisted of shelterbelts, farmstead plantings, and isolated woody vegetation in ravines; *Gledisia triacanthos*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Ribes odoratum*, *Ulmus americanus*, *Populus* spp. Dominated

Verts, 1963

81 - Urban Areas

Walker, 1978

Pitts et al., 1987

VanDruff and Rowse, 1986

Sandidge, 1953

taken within St. Francis city limits

SUBOPTIMAL habitat; den sites in cracks and holes in and under foundations of houses and other buildings

92 - Ozark Limestone Glade - not mapped

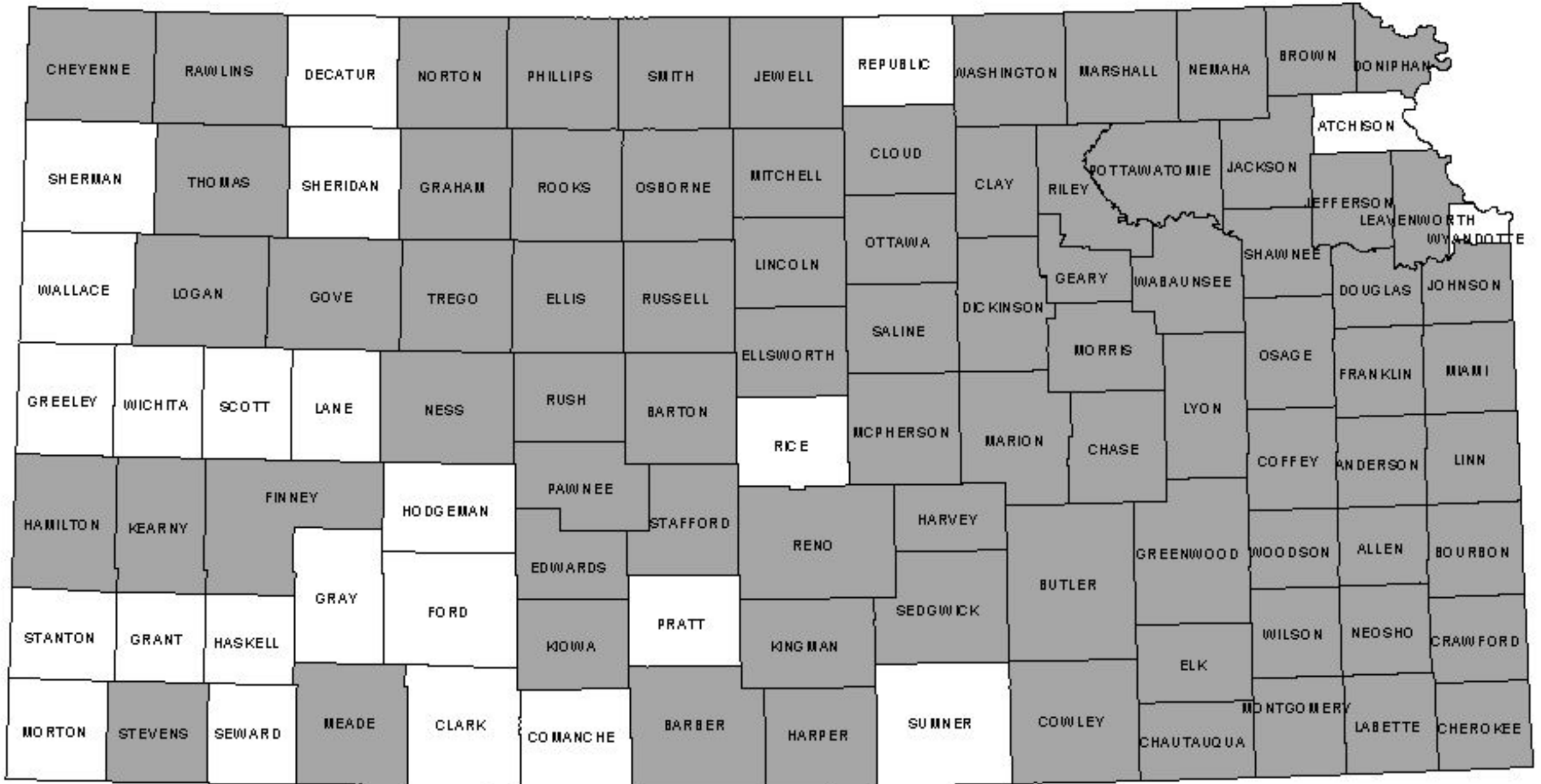
Fitch and Shirer, 1970

dens located either in hillside limestone ledges (67%) or gullies (15%); dens in gullies had entrances among tangled tree roots

Reference List

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Virginia Opossum



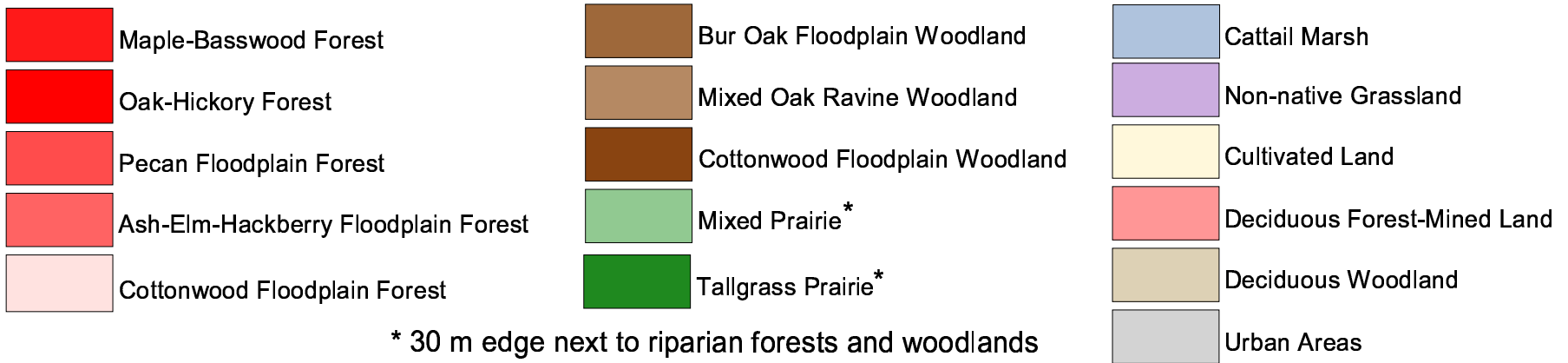
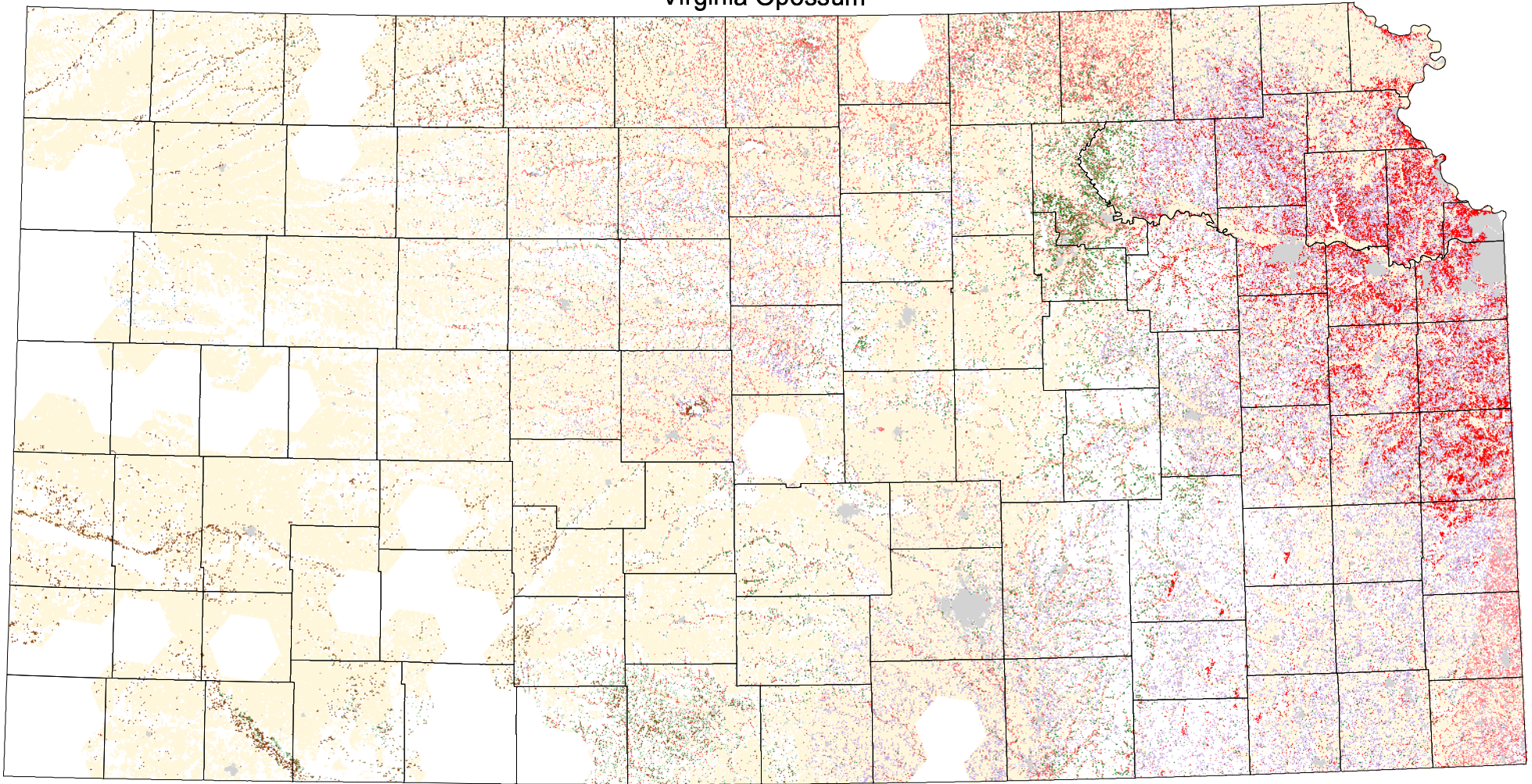
Recorded presence
 No records

Recorded distribution include specimen records and observations collected during 1941-2000 from University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, a large to mid-sized mammal survey conducted by regional biologists and conservation officers from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and personal observations from professional mammalogists.

[Habitats](#)

[Habitat Map](#)

Virginia Opossum



* 30 m edge next to riparian forests and woodlands