

Preface to the Third Edition

THE FIRST EDITION OF *MAMMALS OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK* was published in 1971; the Second Edition in 1995; and now the Third Edition in 2016.

Significant changes have transpired in the past 45 years: new species have been discovered in the park, reintroductions—some successful and one unsuccessful—have occurred, and a number of taxonomic revisions have taken place. This edition contains accounts of 72 mammals of which 4 are extirpated. Three species new to the park (evening bat, Seminole bat, and least weasel) have been recorded, while 2 species (northern river otter and elk) have been successfully reintroduced. The All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), which began in 1999 and is now in its sixteenth year, has served as an impetus for a wide variety of research activities in the park. In my role as Coordinator for the mammal portion of this inventory, many new locality and elevation records, as well as new natural history information, have been recorded.

The list of "Mammals of Surrounding Areas" (pages 155–56) included 9 species in 1971, 7 species in 1995, and now only 4 species in 2016.

Several new features have been added to the Third Edition including the origins of genus and species names (etymology), photographs of new species, and skull drawings of some species to illustrate specific features. Dichotomous identification keys have been designed using easily observable external features. Furthermore, to honor the Cherokee heritage, the Cherokee names for many mammals are now given along with the English names.

In addition to those persons recognized in the Preface to the Second Edition, I also wish to thank Bill Stiver, Supervisory Park Wildlife Biologist, for reviewing a number

of species accounts and for providing current updates, especially for the carnivores and deer; Joe Yarkovich, Park Wildlife Biologist, for updating the elk account; Stanlee Miller, Curator of Mammals at Clemson University, for providing recent data for mammals in the Clemson University collection; and Joy O'Keefe of the Center for Bat Research, Outreach, and Conservation at Indiana State University for providing research data on many bat species, including the first record of the Seminole bat in the park. I also wish to thank Kiri DeBose, Librarian for the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech, for her invaluable assistance in locating reference materials.

Dana Keith, administrative assistant to the Department Head, and Tara Craig, IT specialist, both in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, provided invaluable technical assistance in the preparation of the manuscript.

All skull drawings were prepared by Robert Turner. Unless otherwise indicated, all other drawings were prepared by Eleonore Dupal.