

SHERMAN'S SHORT-TAILED SHREW

Blarina carolinensis shermani

Order: Insectivora
Family: Soricidae
FNAI Ranks: G5T1/S1
U.S. Status: None
FL Status: Species of Special Concern



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Description: A small, mouse-like insectivore, but with very small eyes and ears; large (adults > 4 in. = 100 mm total length) relative to other Florida shrew species; slate-gray fur slightly darker on back than on belly. Tail (approximately 1 in. = 25 mm) extends just beyond an extended rear foot. Darker and larger than other related subspecies and lacks their brownish tinge.

Similar Species: Southeastern shrew (*Sorex longirostris*) is generally smaller (3 - 4.2 in. = 76 - 108 mm), with reddish fur, and tail (relatively long) extends at least 0.5 in. (13 mm) beyond an extended rear foot; least shrew (*Cryptotis parva*) is much smaller (2.7 - 3.5 in. = 69 - 89 mm), with gray-brown fur that is distinctly lighter on the underside. All mice have large, conspicuous eyes and ears, longer tails, and less sharply pointed noses.

Habitat: Generally found where there are abundant grasses at the edges of basin and depression marshes and mesic flatwoods; may use other mesic communities or ruderal areas with at least a moderate cover of grasses or forbs.

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SHREW**

*Blarina carolinensis
shermani*

Seasonal Occurrence: No information available; presumed to be active year-round.

Florida Distribution: Recorded only from Lee County in the vicinity of Ft. Myers; may be extinct.

Range-wide Distribution: Same as Florida distribution. Other subspecies occur throughout the southeastern U.S., including Florida (except the Everglades).

Conservation Status: Not known to occur on conservation lands; may be extinct.

Protection and Management: Maintain natural areas with a mosaic of plant communities including mesic flatwoods and basin wetlands. Prescribed fire is probably important for maintaining dense herbaceous cover. Allow fire to burn through ecotones and basins.

Selected References: Brown 1997, Humphrey (ed.) 1992.