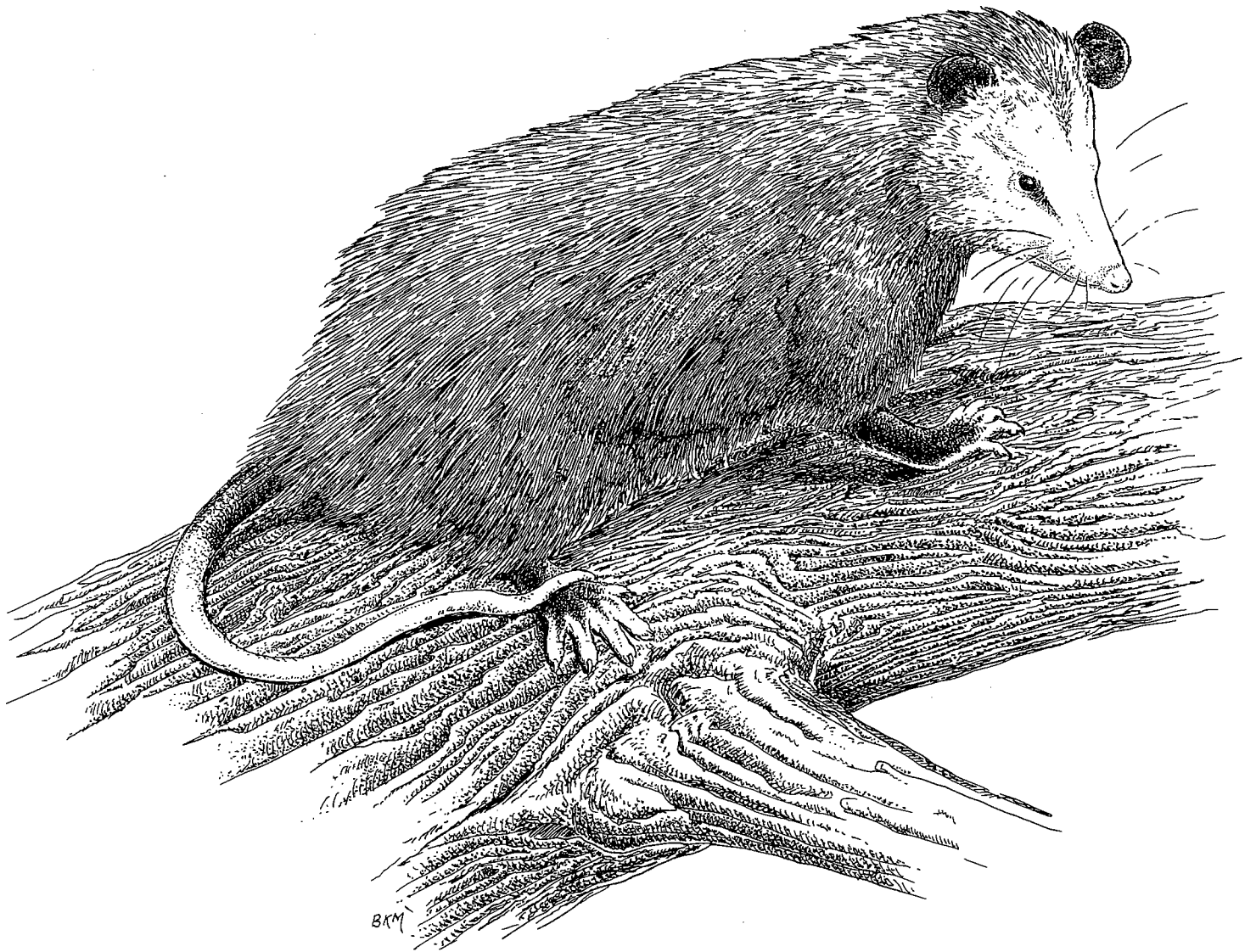


# Opossums

Didelphimorphia



Virginia Opossum: Barry Kent MacKay

# Virginia Opossum

*Didelphis virginiana*

The Virginia Opossum is North America's only marsupial ranging north of Mexico, and is found through the eastern half of the US into Ontario. In Ontario, the opossum's range depends on the climate: mild winters allow them to move northward; severe winters would likely cause a reduction of their range. Although the Virginia Opossum has been sighted as far north as Massey, it is most common throughout agricultural southern Ontario in a band along Lake Erie from Windsor to St. Catharines and north to Waterloo and Guelph.

Records of Virginia Opossums from areas north of Barrie are not considered representative of the species' true range. Instead, these records may represent opossums that have been accidentally transported around Ontario on trucks. Such opossums likely don't survive the winter.

