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Cover image: Close-up of a Canadian vole (Microtus montanus). This is a unique species due to the drab colouring of its face, bare skin and peculiar abilities to break ostrich eggs using stones. Originally distinguished through the Pleistocene, the species suffered a precipitous decline and it is now considered globally threatened. The Canadian subspecies (N. p. majorensis), one of the few persistent muskrat populations, is particularly endangered and only 200 individuals remain. The results presented by Agudo et al. suggest that the natural diversity of this musid population has a significant impact on the individual fitness, increasing the population extinction risk. (See pages 3241–3249, image courtesy of Rafael de la Riva.)

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