MAMMALS OF THE CANYON COUNTRY pdf

1: Amphibians - Canyonlands National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

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The hairs of the dorsum are yellowish brown and lack burnished tips. The braincase rises abruptly above the rostrum. Total length of nine individuals from northwestern Colorado averaged Wingspan is about mm. The only other Colorado myotis as small as the California myotis is the western small-footed myotis, which may be darker brownish in color, has dorsal hairs with brassy, burnished tips, a smaller hind foot and a skull with a flat profile, the forehead rising gradually from the rostrum. Care is needed to distinguish the species in the field, and certain identification requires comparative material in the museum. Distribution Like a number of other species of myotis, this is a bat of western North America, ranging from central Mexico north to British Columbia and from the Pacific Coast to Colorado, where it occurs at lower elevations in valleys and canyons along the Western Slope. Habitat and Habits This is a species of semi-desert habitats, including pi-on-juniper woodland and desert scrub. The animals roost by day in crevices, mines, caves, buildings, beneath bridges or behind loose bark. Night roosts include trees, shrubs and structures such as porches, eaves and outbuildings. Night roosts are dark and sheltered from wind. There may be local movements to suitable hibernacula in caves and mines, but long-distance migration is not known. Breeding Copulation occurs in fall, and sperm are stored over winter by the female. Fertilization and implantation take place in spring. Just when implantation occurs is not known, so the gestation period has not been calculated, but probably it is about six weeks. A single young is born to a female in a nursery colony perhaps in May or June or even later. Lactating females have been captured in Colorado as late as August. Food The California myotis emerges in early evening to feed, just after the tiny western pipistrelle, which has a butterfly-like flight. It forages in arroyos, gaps between trees and near boulders and cliffs. It is active until about midnight and then again about dawn. Typical food includes flies, moths and spiders. Remarks This bat appears uncommon in Colorado except locally in the canyon country at lowest elevations on the Western Slope. Its biology here is poorly understood. The ears are dark, nearly black, and a distinct facial mask is frequent. It is almost impossible to distinguish from the California myotis, and only specialists can tell them apart with certainty. Total length, length of forearm and weight are 80 mm, 30 mm and 4 g, respectively. The wingspan is about mm. Distribution This bat is widespread and common in the western United States. In Colorado it occurs statewide in suitable habitat. It seems to be most common in the canyon country of the Western Slope and in rocky areas of northeastern and southeastern Colorado. Habitat and Habits Despite its wide occurrence, little is known of habitat preferences of this species, although it is known to inhabit rocky areas and is more common at lower elevations. Summer roosts are highly variable and include buildings, mines, under bark on trees, beneath stones and a variety of other sites. The small-footed myotis is a year-round resident of Colorado. It hibernates in caves and mines alone or in small groups. Despite its small size, it is known to hibernate in open tunnels at low temperatures and low humidity, a situation one would assume is stressful. Breeding Little is known about the reproduction of small-footed myotis. Small nursery colonies of 10 to 15 are found occasionally in caves, mines or buildings. One young per year is usual. Young are born in mid-June following a gestation of about two months. Food The western small-footed myotis feeds early in the evening on small flying insects such as flies, small beetles and winged ants. This species is highly maneuverable in flight, often foraging among boulders, along cliffs or shrubs and trees. Remarks Like most species of Myotis, the small-footed myotis is often misidentified. It can be confused with the western pipistrelle or other mouse-eared bats, especially the California myotis. Earlier information on this species in Colorado was published under the names Myotis subulatus or Myotis leibii. Black membranes contrast with the medium yellowish-brown fur. The belly is paler than the back. Hairs are lead-gray at their bases. The only species with which the long-eared myotis might be confused is the fringed myotis, which has shorter, narrower ears and a conspicuous fringe of stiff hairs on the trailing edge of the uropatagium. Distribution Like the Yuma myotis, this species ranges from central Mexico north to British Columbia, but it ranges farther east to the western edge of the Great Plains, including the western Dakotas and Nebraska. This

species occurs at moderate elevations throughout the western three- fifths of Colorado, at elevations from 5, to 9, feet. Habitat and Habits The long-eared myotis is a species of coniferous forest, on both sides of the Continental Divide. Roosts are in trees often behind loose bark , caves, abandoned mines and other such sheltered areas. It is possible that the long-eared myotis hibernates in Colorado, as late fall activity has been documented in mines and caves, but individuals never have been found in winter. Breeding Reproduction has not been studied in detail, and dates of breeding are unknown. Males with scrotal testes have been captured in July, August and September. Females form small nursery colonies of one to three dozen individuals. In Colorado, pregnant females are most common in June and July. Lactating females have been captured in June, July and August. A single young is born. Probably, the gestation period is 50 to 60 days, as in other species of myotis of similar size. Food The long-eared myotis emerges after dark to forage near trees or over water. The animals are gleaners, hovering to take prey from leaves in forest gaps and edges. Principal food items are moths, flies, spiders and beetles. Remarks The long-eared myotis is not uncommon in parts of Colorado, but little is known of its biology here or elsewhere over its range. The Yuma myotis is of similar size but is paler in color and the hairs lack metallic, burnished tips. The California myotis may be as dark but is considerably smaller; the long-legged myotis is a heavier bat with a keeled calcar a spur of bone that projects inward from the ankle and a wing that is furred beneath from body to elbow. The fringed myotis has longer ears as has the long-eared myotis and a distinctive fringe of stiff hairs on the trailing edge of the uropatagium. Average length is Weights average about 7 g, and the wingspan is about mm. Distribution The little brown bat ranges across North America, from Alaska across Canada to Newfoundland and south, mostly in forested areas, to central Mexico. In Colorado the species may occur statewide in suitable habitat, ranging as high as 11, feet in Lake County. However, in the eastern two-fifths of the state, there are actual records only from Greeley and Pueblo. Habitat and Habits This is a species of wooded areas -- including riparian woodland in the mountains and lower valleys -- urban areas, woodlots and shelterbelts. The little brown bat is one of the most tolerant of bats in terms of roost selection. Night roosts are located in tree hollows, beneath tree bark, in or under buildings, bridges, crevices in rock, behind shutters or beneath eaves. They may share roosts with other species of bats. Day roosts in attics may be used by large concentrations of bats. Hibernation sites include caves, mines and buildings. Some little brown bats hibernate in Colorado, but winter habits are poorly known here and elsewhere in the West. In Ontario, hibernation lasts from September to May. In some parts of the range, the animals may move several hundred kilometers from nursery colonies to hibernacula, but such long-distance movements have not been documented in the West. The animals can move 50 miles a night at speeds up to 19 miles per hour. Maximum longevity in these bats may be remarkably long; the current record is some 31 years. The average lifespan, however, is much shorter, as over half the young die in their first year. Predators include raccoons, mink, snakes and owls. Breeding A great deal is known about the breeding habits of the little brown bat in the eastern part of its range, but the species has not been studied intensively in the West. Breeding takes place in autumn or early winter. There are two phases, an active phase in which males and females are alert and a passive phase in which males mate with torpid females. Breeding of both sexes is promiscuous. Sperm are stored by the female in the uterus until spring, when fertilization, implantation and gestation take place. Gestation lasts 50 to 60 days, depending on temperatures. The young are born almost always singly in nursery colonies from late May to early June. At birth, little brown bats are blind, but their eyes open in two days. Young can fly on their own by 3 weeks and reach adult weight about a month after their first flight. About half the females breed their first autumn. Males breed first as yearlings. Nursery colonies of several hundred females are known. Non-breeding females and males roost away from nursery colonies. Food Little brown bats emerge at dusk to feed, often following the same foraging route repeatedly through the night and on successive nights.

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2: Colorado Bat Working Group: Bats of Colorado

Mammals of the canyon country by David M. Armstrong, , Canyonlands Natural History Association edition, in English.

Arches National Park Wildlife Wildlife of Arches Though the natural quiet of Arches often creates the impression of lifelessness, many animals live here. Birds, lizards and some rodents are seen most frequently, though seasons and weather play a large role in determining what animals are active. Desert animals have a variety of adaptations for dealing with the temperature and moisture stresses present in Arches. Most desert animals are nocturnal, being most active at night. This can be an adaptation to both predation and hot summer daytime temperatures. Mostly nocturnal animals include kangaroo rats, woodrats also called packrats , and most other small desert rodents, skunks, ringtails, foxes, bobcats, mountain lions, bats and owls. Animals that are most active at dawn and dusk are called "crepuscular. The half-dark makes prey animals less visible, yet visibility is good enough to locate food. Some animals are crepuscular mostly because their prey is crepuscular. Crepuscular animals include mule deer, coyotes, porcupines, desert cottontails, black-tailed jackrabbits, and many songbirds. A few desert animals are primarily active during the day, or "diurnal. Many animals have a temperature range in which they are active, so alter their active times of day depending on the season. Snakes and lizards go into an inactive state of torpor during the winter, are active during the day during the late spring and early fall, and become crepuscular during the heat of summer. Many insects alter their times of activity. Mosquitoes, for example, may be out at night, at dawn, dusk or all day but not at night, depending on the temperatures. Most animals in this desert climate are nocturnal; that is, they eat, drink and move about at night. Fifty-two kinds of mammals have been sighted in the park. Mule deer shown in photo at right , bighorn sheep, cottontail rabbits, kit fox and ground squirrels are seen frequently. Birds are common certain times of the year and in certain locations. At least kinds of birds have been seen in the Park. Common ones include pinyon jays, mountain bluebirds, red-tailed hawks and ravens. Visitors who leave their cars during the warm part of the year are almost guaranteed to see lizards! Shy midget-faded rattlesnakes are also present, but are seldom seen. Believe it or not, the hot temperatures up to degrees Fahrenheit in the summer are just one of the many harsh conditions for the animals that live here. Animal adaptations are also aimed at coping with the dryness, lack of food, and extreme temperature changes. Every animal needs water to live. Humans have a great advantage because we can plan ahead, fill up our water bottles, and carry as much water as needed in the summer, about four quarts per person per day. Animals have to find water nearby on a regular basis, unless they can fly or walk a long way. Some animals have adaptations that help them live in a dry, hot and cold desert. For instance, black-tailed jackrabbit, kit fox, and mule deer all have large ears with lots of blood vessels in them. They stay cooler by radiating heat from their blood to the air. Some animals such as the kangaroo rat have specialized kidneys that can make water out of dry foods, and have specialized nasal passages that prevent too much moisture from escaping when they breathe. At Arches National Park, water sources for animals include potholes, springs, seeps, washes, and the Colorado River. Potholes are depressions in rock that collect rainwater and generally evaporate in a week or two. Seeps and springs are more reliable water sources. Most washes have flowing water only after rains. Afterwards, some water flows into the Colorado River and some seeps into the sandy wash bottoms, and the washes dry up. The Colorado River is the southern boundary of the park and is too far away to be useful to many animals that live in the park. Since water is precious to all life and is rare in the desert, it is important not to swim in water sources. Sunscreen or bacteria on humans can contaminate the water and kill organisms living in it. Carry enough water so that the lives which depend on these clean water sources are not disturbed. Bighorn Sheep Desert bighorn sheep are some of the most intriguing mammals of canyon country. They are wary of human contact, and blend so well into the terrain they inhabit, that sightings are a special event. Once feared of becoming extinct, the desert bighorn are making a tentative comeback in southeast Utah due to a comprehensive reintroduction effort by the National Park Service. Desert bighorns have adapted to hot, dry climates, unlike their Rocky Mountain cousins, and have longer legs, lighter coats and smaller bodies. Bighorn sheep are common in ancestral Puebloan and Fremont pictographs, an indication of their presence and prominence in indigenous cultures.

Explorers in the late s estimated that more than two million desert bighorn once roamed the southwest. By the late s however, bighorn sheep had disappeared or declined in many areas. Extremely vulnerable to diseases from livestock, herd after herd of wild sheep were decimated by pathogens like scabies an ear mite and anthrax a bacterial disease introduced by domestic sheep. Bighorns were also killed by early explorers, settlers and trophy hunters. In the early s, biologists began relocating bighorns from a native population in Canyonlands National Park in order to establish new herds. Since sheep are poor dispersers, this is the only way to return them to their historic ranges. To accomplish this, sheep are captured in nets fired from helicopters, their health and age assessed, and suitable animals are transported by ground to a relocation area. Sheep relocated to the San Rafael Swell west of Arches have created two herds totaling more than animals. Today, the bighorn population in Utah is estimated at 3, animals. There are roughly 75 sheep in Arches, and animals are often sighted along Highway south of the visitor center. Human activity and development continue to threaten the desert bighorn sheep. The mortality rate of first-year lambs at Arches has been alarming in recent years. Though no specific cause has been identified, this trend may be due to increased vehicle traffic along highways coming into Moab. For the remaining herds to survive, intensive management and conservation measures may be necessary. Park Birds Birds are the most visible animals in Arches. Even on the hottest summer day, turkey vultures and white-throated swifts circle above the rock formations. During winter, juncos and white-crowned sparrows forage around trees and shrubs. While Arches may not be considered a bird watching hot spot, species have been seen in the park, including seasonal and year-round residents as well as migrants. In the desert, animal life tends to concentrate around riparian areas because of the abundance of food, water and shelter. During spring and summer, mornings in these areas are filled with birdsong, including blue grosbeaks, yellow-breasted chats, spotted towhees and canyon wrens. Many birds favor the "upland" areas where grasses, shrubs and small trees dominate. Pinyon jays, scrub jays, juniper titmice and black-throated gray warblers are usually seen in pinyon-juniper woodlands. Since they are able to fly, it is difficult to generalize about what birds will be found in a particular habitat. However, regardless of habitat or season, the common raven figures prominently in the desert landscape. Ravens are intelligent birds that, according to scientists, display abilities to play and problem-solve rare among animals. This jet-black member of the crow family is also very vocal, using a variety of sounds for communication. Perhaps because of these qualities, ravens have achieved a certain stature in both European and Native American folklore. Arches monitors bird populations at several selected locations in both upland and riparian areas. Park Mammals Almost 50 species of mammal are known to live in Arches. Some, like desert cottontails, kangaroo rats and mule deer, are common and may be seen by a majority of visitors. However, many desert animals are inactive during daylight hours or are wary of humans, so sightings can be truly special events. Because of their size, these animals are less able to migrate, but have an easier time finding shelter and require less food and water to live. This rat lives its entire life consuming nothing but plant matter. Its body produces water by metabolizing the food it eats. However, even the kangaroo rat is prone to spending the hottest daylight hours sleeping in a cool underground burrow and may even plug the opening with dirt or debris for insulation. Larger Mammals Larger mammals, like mule deer and mountain lions, must cover more territory in order to find food and water, and sometimes migrate to nearby mountains during summer. However, unlike mule deer, mountain lion sightings are very rare. Desert bighorn sheep live year-round in Arches, and are frequently sighted along Highway south of the visitor center. These animals roam the talus slopes and side canyons near the Colorado River, foraging on plants and negotiating the steep, rocky terrain with the greatest of ease. Once in danger of becoming extinct, the desert bighorn are now making a tentative comeback that has been fueled by the healthy herds in nearby Canyonlands National Park. Amphibians Amphibians may be the last thing people think of when they visit Arches. However, the park is home to a variety of frogs and toads, as well as one species of salamander. Witnessing a chorus of toads may be one of the most memorable experiences canyon country has to offer. It is an awesome event that can fill a canyon with sound, sometimes for hours. Amphibians are animals that have two life stages: This is the difference between a tadpole and a frog. In Arches, amphibians lay their eggs in the potholes, springs and intermittent streams like Courthouse Wash. Adult amphibians may wander away from water, but usually remain nearby and wait out dry periods in

burrows. Breeding and toad choruses usually occurs on spring and summer nights after significant rainfall. Male frogs and toads do the vocalizing. Females lay long strings of gelatin-covered eggs which, depending on the species, may hatch within hours. Metamorphosis can take weeks, though the Great Basin spadefoot toad transforms to adulthood in as little as 14 days, the quickest of any amphibian. Reptiles Along with cacti and sand dunes, reptiles have become icons of the desert.

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3: MAMMALS | The Handbook of Texas Online| Texas State Historical Association (TSHA)

Mammals of the Canyon Country: A Handbook of Mammals of Canyonlands National Park and Vicinity 1st Edition by David M. Armstrong (Author).

Definitions Occurrence Occurrence values are defined below. One or more Occurrence Tags may be associated with each Occurrence value. Species occurs in park; current, reliable evidence available. High confidence species occurs in park but current, verified evidence needed. Species is attributed to park but evidence is weak or absent. Species is not known to occur in park. Species is known to occur in areas near to or contiguous with park boundaries. Species was reported to occur within the park, but current evidence indicates the report was based on misidentification, a taxonomic concept no longer accepted, or other similar problem of error or interpretation. Assigned based on judgment as opposed to determination based on age of the most recent evidence. May be seen daily, in suitable habitat and season, and counted in relatively large numbers. Large number of individuals; wide ecological amplitude or occurring in habitats covering a large portion of the park. May be seen daily, in suitable habitat and season, but not in large numbers. Large numbers of individuals predictably occurring in commonly encountered habitats but not those covering a large portion of the park. Likely to be seen monthly in appropriate habitat and season. May be locally common. Few to moderate numbers of individuals; occurring either sporadically in commonly encountered habitats or in uncommon habitats. Present, but usually seen only a few times each year. Few individuals, usually restricted to small areas of rare habitat. Occurs in the park at least once every few years, varying in numbers, but not necessarily every year. Abundance variable from year to year e. Species naturally occurs in park or region. Species occurs on park lands as a result of deliberate or accidental human activities. Nativeness status is unknown or ambiguous. The Full List includes all the checklist species in addition to species that are unconfirmed, historically detected, or incorrectly reported as being found in the park. Additional details about the status of each species is included in the full list. The checklist will almost always contain fewer species than the full list. Select a Species Category optional:

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Get this from a library! Mammals of the canyon country: a handbook of mammals of Canyonlands National Park and vicinity. [David M Armstrong].

Photo by Renata Platenberg Amphibians may be the last thing people think of when they visit Canyonlands. However, the park is home to a variety of frogs and toads, as well as one species of salamander. Witnessing a chorus of toads may be one of the most memorable experiences canyon country has to offer. It is an awesome event that can fill a canyon with sound, sometimes for hours. Amphibians are animals that have two life stages: This is the difference between a tadpole and a frog. In Canyonlands, amphibians lay their eggs in the potholes, springs and intermittent streams found throughout the park. Swift currents and predation limit survival during the larval stage in bigger rivers like the Colorado. Adult amphibians may wander away from water, but usually remain nearby and wait out dry periods in burrows. Breeding and toad choruses usually occurs on spring and summer nights after significant rainfall. Male frogs and toads do the vocalizing. Females lay long strings of gelatin-covered eggs which, depending on the species, may hatch within hours. Metamorphosis can take weeks, though the Great Basin spadefoot toad transforms to adulthood in as little as 14 days, the quickest of any amphibian. Lately, news headlines nationwide have featured stories about amphibians with strange mutations like extra or missing limbs, even extra heads. Dramatic population decline and even extinction have also become prevalent problems. The reason for these trends is unclear. However, studies indicate that amphibians are sensitive to a variety of environmental problems. Increases in UV radiation may increase mortality of eggs and tadpoles of some species. Also, the metamorphosis between larval and adult stages is a delicate process that can be affected by environmental changes. Finally, since amphibians range over both terrestrial and aquatic territories, changes in either may affect populations. Thus far, neither mutations nor population declines have been observed at Canyonlands, but their importance as an indicator species has made preserving amphibian habitat a priority for the National Park Service. In Canyonlands, amphibian populations are greatest along small perennial streams like those in Horseshoe Canyon near the Maze, and Salt Creek Canyon in the Needles District. To protect park resources, vehicle use in Horseshoe Canyon was prohibited in the s, and vehicle use in Salt Creek Canyon was prohibited in June

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5: Arches National Park Wildlife

Mammals of the Canyon Country A Handbook of Mammals of Canyonlands National Park and Vicinity Published June by Canyonlands Natl Hist Assn.

With the warming spring temperatures, the landscape opens, bursting with colors to attract pollinators in hopes for reproduction. While some plants bloom consistently from year to year, others lay dormant waiting for abnormally wet seasons. Other opportunistic species bloom throughout the season, on a larger-than-seasonal cycle. Often times a strong monsoon season will find conditions prime for a fall bloom more spectacular than the spring. For those traveling downstream on a river trip, the following flowers might be spotted while drifting by on the boat or while hiking in side canyons. The Native Americans would mash up the roots to treat aches and pains. There, the top heavy blooms nod in the evening breeze on cool May nights. In Grand Canyon there are 7 different species closely related and nearly impossible to differentiate without the blooming flower. Some of the most spectacular places to see Crimson Monkeyflowers are found hiking to waterfalls in Grand Canyon. Thunder River falls is another place Monkeyflowers thrive, where the mist of the cascading water creates a moist environment even under the direct desert sun. Like Monkeyflowers, there are 7 similar species in Grand Canyon blooming with a variety of colors. Because the nectar is stored deep inside of the flower, its main pollinators are butterflies with long proboscises and hummingbirds. Bees with short proboscises will often bite through the flower to get to the nectar and avoid the task of pollination. Rounding the bend to the falls in Saddle Canyon, in the narrowest spot between canyon walls is where you can see 3 different species of Columbine bloom. In red, pink and yellow, the backward facing spurs stand tall to the sky, hoping for butterflies not bees. Stems extending underground called rhizomes can clone the next generation next to the mother plant. The flowering stock can shoot up 15 feet into the sky, the climax after a long life in the desert. While hiking to the top of the Redwall layer of limestone through the Eminence Fault break from the eminence camp, Century Plants appear as candlesticks in the fading afternoon light. One Grand Canyon river trip participant informed me that the post-flowering stalk of the Century Plant makes a good walking stick because it is light in weight, rigid and strong. Seen in shades of reds and oranges, 10 different species of Globemallow can be seen in Grand Canyon. Because hybridization is common, differentiating between species can be difficult. Native Americans harvest the roots and make a sticky pulp in cold water to treat stomach pain and diarrhea. Globemallow can also be made into a tea that finds soothing effects. Driving to the put-in for Desolation Canyon in the spring feels like driving through an ocean of orange Globemallow blooms. Often opportunistic, Globemallow thrive within disturbed landscapes, lining the highways dissecting the desert Southwest. Because of heavy concentrations of toxic alkaloids found in the leaves, contact with the plant can cause fatal hallucinations. Because of their extended proboscis, the Hawk moth can extract pollen from deep inside the flower. Hawk moth larvae feed on the alkaloid-rich leaves making them toxic to predators. One of my favorite places to see Sacred Datura is hiking through the winding narrows of 75 mile canyon above Nevills Rapid. The tall, vertical walls of Shinamu Quartzite provide enough shade to protect the flower from shriveling up throughout the day. Feel free to post your answers in the comment section below. River and Desert Plants of the Grand Canyon. Mountain Press Publishing Company,

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6: Mammals of the canyon country (edition) | Open Library

Recommended Citation. Armstrong, David M., "Mammals of the Canyon Country: A Handbook of Mammals of Canyonlands National Park and Vicinity" ().

Because of its size and ecological diversity, Texas supports a native fauna of about species of terrestrial mammals. In addition to native mammals, some species have been introduced. Only one marsupial, the Virginia opossum Didelphis virginiana , occurs in Texas. It is distributed statewide, except for some arid far-western parts of the state. Two families of insectivores, Soricidae shrews and Talpidae moles , are represented in Texas. Four species of shrew occur: Of the moles, the eastern mole Scalopus , a species of burrowing mole, is the only one that occurs in the state. It is common over much of eastern Texas and reaches westward to the Panhandle , the eastern edge of the Llano Estacado , and Presidio County. Four families of bats are represented in Texas: Mormoopidae mustached bats and allies , Phyllostomidae leaf-nosed bats and allies , Vespertilionidae common bats , and Molossidae free-tailed bats. A single species of Mormoopidae, the ghost-faced bat Mormoops , occurs in Texas and is known as far north as the southwestern and south central regions of the state. Members of the family Phyllostomidae are limited primarily to the American tropics. Three species barely reach Texas. The Mexican long-tongued bat Choeronycteris has been recorded once in the lower Rio Grande valley, the big long-nosed bat Leptonycteris is known in the Big Bend, and the hairy-legged vampire Diphylla has been taken but once from near Comstock. Twenty-two members of the family Vespertilionidae make up an important component of the Texas fauna. Some, such as the big brown bat Eptesicus , are nearly statewide in distribution. Others, such as several species of the genus Myotis, have more restricted distributions. And some, such as the silver-haired bat Lasionycteris , may be present in the state only during semiannual migrations. Four species of the free-tailed bats or Molossidae-three in the genus Tadarida and one in the genus Eumops-occur in Texas. Only one, the Brazilian free-tailed bat T. Of the armadillos Dasypodidae and their allies, only one, the nine-banded armadillo Dasypus novemcinctus , occurs in Texas. The armadillo ranges over most of the state, being absent only from the extreme western and southwestern parts. Order Lagomorpha, Family Leporidae. Four species of lagomorphs are found in Texas, the most common and widespread being the black-tailed jackrabbit Lepus californicus , which occurs over most of the state but is abundant westwardly, and the eastern cottontail Sylvilagus floridanus , which is a common inhabitant of all but parts of the extreme southwest. Two other species of Sylvilagus are known-the desert cottontail, which occurs in upland habitats in the western half of the state, and the swamp rabbit, which occupies lowland areas in the eastern third of Texas. This order is represented in Texas by members of the family Sciuridae squirrels and allies , of the family Geomyidae pocket gophers , of the family Heteromyidae pocket mice and kangaroo rats , of the family Castoridae beavers , of the family Cricetidae New World mice and rats , and of the family Erethizontidae porcupines. Because most are diurnal, squirrels are among the best known of native rodents. In the Texas fauna there are two tree squirrels Sciurus , the fox squirrel and the gray squirrel, native to the eastern and central parts of the state and frequently introduced westwardly, and four species of ground squirrels Spermophilus , some of which occur in all but East Texas. Additionally, there are the unique prairie dog Cynomys , once widely distributed in the West and still common in some areas, the antelope ground squirrel Ammospermophilus of the Trans-Pecos region, a chipmunk Tamias , known only from the Guadalupe Mountains and the Sierra Diablo,qqv and the nocturnal southern flying squirrel Glaucomys , which occurs in the eastern third of the state. The mounds of the pocket gophers, burrowing rodents, are typical features of the Texas landscape. Pocket gophers are common, often abundant, in favored soils; at least one type can be found anywhere in the state, but the kinds never coexist with each other. The nocturnal pocket mice and kangaroo rats are typical of the grasslands and semiarid regions of the western and southern parts of the state. The kangaroo rats Dipodomys , frequently seen along roadways at night, are represented by five species in Texas, the spiny pocket mouse Liomys by a single species that occurs only in the lower Rio Grande area, and the true pocket mouse Perognathus by six species, the largest of which, the spiny pocket mouse P. The Castoridae are represented in the New World only by the familiar beaver Castor

canadensis , which is known from East and Central Texas and westward along the Rio Grande and its tributaries and the Canadian River. New World mice and rats are represented by more species native to Texas twenty-nine than any other mammalian family. The most conspicuous of cricetids are the semiaquatic muskrat Ondatra zibethicus , because of its wide distribution and commercial value as a furbearer, and the wood rats Neotoma , four species of which occur in the state at least one of which can be found in any area , because of their frequently conspicuous "houses. Other native mice and rats include one pygmy mouse Baiomys , two grasshopper mice Onychomys , four harvest mice Reithrodontomys , two rice rats Oryzomys , the golden mouse Ochrotomys , two cotton rats Sigmodon , the woodland vole Pitymys , and the Mexican vole Microtus. The prairie vole M. The distinctive porcupine Erethizon dorsatum is a characteristic mammal of the western half of Texas. It is mostly an animal of coniferous woodlands, but occupies a variety of habitats, some quite distant from forests. Representatives of the families Canidae coyotes, foxes, and allies , Ursidae bears , Procyonidae the raccoon and its allies , Mustelidae weasels, skunks, and allies , and Felidae cats occur in Texas. Six species of canids are native to Texas. One, the red wolf Canis rufus , evidently now is extinct, and its larger relative, the gray wolf C. Two small foxes, the desert or kit fox Vulpes macrotis and the swift fox V. The red fox V. The grizzly bear Ursus arctos once occurred in the mountainous regions of the Trans-Pecos but was long ago extirpated. The black bear U. The raccoon Procyon lotor , one of the most familiar and economically important of Texas carnivores, has a statewide distribution and is of common occurrence. Its smaller and less well-known relatives, the coati Nasua narica and ringtail Bassariscus astutus , have more restricted distributions, the latter occurring mostly in the western and central parts of the state and the former only in the lower Rio Grande valley and Big Bend. Eleven mustelids are known in Texas: Of the cats, the mountain lion Felis concolor once was found throughout Texas but now occurs only in the Trans-Pecos mountains and as an occasional wanderer in forested East Texas. Two other felids, the jaguar F. Representatives of four families of the order of even-toed ungulates occur in Texas: Tayassuidae javalinas or peccaries , Cervidae deer and their allies , Antilocapridae the pronghorn , and Bovidae bison and allies. The collared Peccary Tayassu tajacu or javalina is the only Tayassuid in Texas. It once ranged rather broadly but now is restricted to the southwestern part of the state and the brush country of South Texas. Two familiar members of the family Cervidae are the white-tailed deer Odocoiluse virginianus , which has a statewide distribution in suitable brushy or wooded habitats, and the mule deer O. Another cervid, the wapita or American elk Cervus canadensis , has been reintroduced in the Guadalupe Mountains, where it apparently once occurred. The pronghorn antelope, a readily recognizable species Antilocapra americana , is found in West Texas, from the Panhandle southward to the Trans-Pecos, where it is the most common. Its habitat is relatively open rangelands. It once occurred much farther eastward. The bighorn sheep Ovis canadensis once occurred on the desert mountains of the Trans-Pecos, was extirpated, and now has been reintroduced in limited numbers. Aside from several native North American mammals mentioned above that have been introduced or reintroduced in Texas, a number of exotic species have been transported to the state by man, accidently or on purpose. Among these are four rodents-the house mouse Mus , two species of rats Rattus , and the nutria or coypu Myocastor. The house mouse and rats, of Old World origin, are commensals of man; they live primarily in and around human habitations. The semiaquatic nutria, a native of southern South America, was introduced into Louisiana in the mids and has spread over most of the southeastern United States. In Texas it now occurs in aquatic habitats over much of the eastern part of the state. Several ungulates, or hoofed mammals, have been introduced as game species. Some still occur mostly in at least semiconfinement and are not treated here, but others thrive in the wild state. The Barbary sheep Ammotragus was introduced in the canyon country of West Texas in the late s and now occurs also in some desert mountains of the Trans-Pecos. The nilgai antelope Boselaphus , blackbuck Antilope , and axis deer Cervus axis are found in parts of Central and South Texas. 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