

Other Mammal Species To Watch For

1. Big brown bat *Date Sighted:* _____
2. Cotton mouse *Date Sighted:* _____
3. Southern short-tailed shrew
 Date Sighted: _____
4. Golden mouse *Date Sighted:* _____
5. Florida wood rat *Date Sighted:* _____
6. House mouse *Date Sighted:* _____
7. Muskrat *Date Sighted:* _____
8. Eastern mole *Date Sighted:* _____
9. Plains pocket gopher
 Date Sighted: _____
10. Nutria *Date Sighted:* _____
11. Feral pig *Date Sighted:* _____
12. Seminole bat *Date Sighted:* _____
13. Mountain lion *Date Sighted:* _____
14. Black bear *Date Sighted:* _____
15. Long-tailed weasel *Date Sighted:* _____

For More Information Contact:

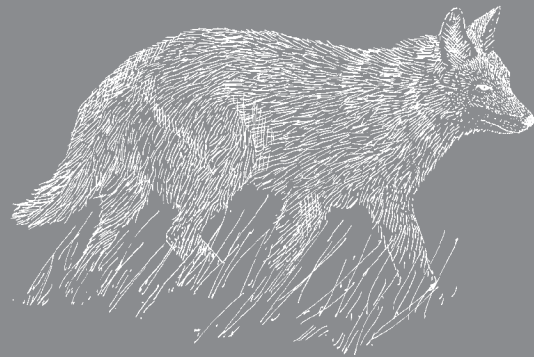
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MAMMALS OF MORO BAY STATE PARK AND THE OUACHITA RIVER



Moro Bay State Park
Jersey, Arkansas 71651

www.ArkansasStateParks.com

MAMMALS of Moro Bay State Park and The Ouachita River

Moro Bay State Park contains 117 acres in southern Arkansas. This small park is located in the West Gulf Coastal Plain region of the state, and it either encompasses or is adjacent to, a variety of natural habitats. These habitats include mixed hardwood and pine forest, backwater cypress swamp, open meadow and pastureland, and river and stream. Such diversity in habitat naturally attracts a wide variety of plants and wildlife.

Mammals of many species can be found in and around Moro Bay State Park. From the treetops to the river bottom, and even in the skies, mammals abound. Each species occupies its individual place in the food chain, but each is also linked to the others in the continuous web of life.

Whether you travel by automobile, by boat, or on foot, you can encounter and observe mammals throughout Moro Bay State Park and the surrounding area. Following is a partial list of some of the more common mammal species in the area. The list is intended as a starter guide, so do not let it limit your adventure. With time and careful exploration, you may observe species that are not listed. Please record your discovery and report it to the park visitor center.

Eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

This bushy-tailed creature is one of the more common species in the park. Even when it cannot be seen, it can often be detected by the short barks it sounds when it is excited. Gray squirrels are tree dwellers, and they feed

on a variety of nuts and seeds. They are also common visitors to backyard feeders, where they are sometimes unwelcome pests. *Date Sighted:* _____

Eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*)

Although it is not observed in the park as often as the gray squirrel, this larger, orange colored rodent is fairly abundant in the surrounding areas. The fox squirrel has a keen sense of smell, which, in winter, allows it to locate nuts buried earlier in the year. *Date Sighted:* _____

Southern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*)

This small squirrel does not truly fly, but glides up to 80 yards from the top of one tree down to the trunk of another. Folds of skin between the foreleg and hindleg act as a combination sail and parachute. Flying squirrels are the only nocturnal tree squirrels. *Date Sighted:* _____


White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Although primarily nocturnal, this very abundant deer can be seen moving at all times of the day. Although they are a favorite prey for hunters, deer can also be a pest for farmers and gardeners. Their habit of feeding along roadsides contributes to their involvement in many traffic accidents each year.

Date Sighted: _____

Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

This species is active primarily at twilight and at night, but can be observed foraging by day in brush or thick foliage. It is the



only American canine with true climbing ability, and it occasionally forages or takes refuge in trees. *Date Sighted:* _____

Red fox
(*Vulpes vulpes*)

This “sly” mammal can be observed in the park, usually at night. It is distinguishable from the gray fox by its white-tipped tail. It eats whatever is available, including berries, corn, grapes, mice, rabbits, and an occasional chicken, much to the dismay of farmers. *Date Sighted:* _____

Coyote
(*Canis latrans*)

This mammal’s scientific name means “barking dog.” It has not been recorded in the park in recent years, but can be observed in the surrounding area. A call from one coyote usually prompts others to join in, resulting in the familiar chorus heard at night. *Date Sighted:* _____

Raccoon
(*Procyon lotor*)

Raccoons are common in the park, but are usually observed at night. This mammal has a black “mask” on its face, resembling that of a bandit. It is an accomplished tree climber and campsite raider. The raccoon’s nimble fingers can easily turn doorknobs and open refrigerators. *Date Sighted:* _____

Opossum
(*Didelphis virginiana*)

This common mammal is a marsupial, meaning it carries its young in a pouch. It is basically nocturnal and solitary. It is also a good tree climber, and has a

naked, prehensile tail, which it can use to hang from limbs of trees. *Date Sighted:* _____

Nine-banded armadillo
(*Dasypus novemcinctus*)

This is the only North American mammal which is armored with heavy, bony plates. The armadillo is also unique in that females always give birth to four identical quadruplets. Armadillos root around for insects, small amphibians, and other small prey. Sometimes their digging can wreak havoc on lawns, flowerbeds, and small gardens. *Date Sighted:* _____

Eastern red bat
(*Lasiurus borealis*)

Bats are the only true flying mammals. This common bat is a tree dweller, and usually appears late in the evening to forage for moths and other insects. Females may have as many as three or four offspring at a time, and they are the only bat species to have four nipples. *Date Sighted:* _____

Evening bat
(*Nycticeius humeralis*)

This slow, steady flying bat roosts mainly in tree hollows. As its name suggests, it emerges in late evening to feed on beetles, moths, and other bugs, many of which are agricultural pests. *Date Sighted:* _____

Beaver
(*Castor canadensis*)

This large rodent has been known to exceed 80 pounds. Look for it along stream banks in late evening and early morning. Its habit

of building dams across streams helps produce wetland habitats which attract other wildlife. *Date Sighted:* _____

Northern river otter
(*Lutra canadensis*)

This playful mammal has been sighted in the park actually playing in the street during times of high water. Otters love to play and have a habit of developing mudslides along river and stream banks, and using the slides to make a playful entry into the water. Otters are probably the finest swimmers and divers of the land dwelling mammals. *Date Sighted:* _____

Striped skunk
(*Mephitis mephitis*)

This mammal’s bold black and white coloration advertise the fact that it is not to be bothered. When threatened, skunks can spray an extremely foul smelling oil 10 to 15 feet. The smell of the spray may carry as much as a mile. Striped skunks are currently the chief carrier of rabies in the U. S. *Date Sighted:* _____

Eastern cottontail
(*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

This is the most common rabbit in much of the U.S. Cottontails are usually found in brush thickets, but can occupy a variety of habitats. They are also very fast breeders, producing up to four litters per year, with up to nine young in each litter. Rabbits are a favorite prey for many predators, including man; very few individuals live longer than one year. *Date Sighted:* _____



Swamp rabbit
(*Sylvilagus aquaticus*)

This species is the largest of the cottontail rabbits. The swamp rabbit is a good swimmer, and will often swim just to get about. Sometimes, to elude predators, it will remain submerged except for its nose. Unlike other cottontails, swamp rabbit young are born fully furred and their eyes open almost immediately. *Date Sighted:* _____

Bobcat
(*Lynx rufus*)

This secretive feline gets its name for its short, bobbed tail. It is the most common wildcat in North America, and is closely related to the Canada Lynx. Bobcats generally prey on small to medium-sized mammals, but are actually capable of killing a deer when other food is scarce. *Date Sighted:* _____

Mink
(*Mustela vison*)

Mink are accomplished swimmers and spend much time hunting in ponds and streams. They can dive to a depth of 16 feet or more. Mink were once highly prized for their pelts before the decline of the fur industry. Most commercial pelts now come from mink raised on ranches. The prey of a mink may consist of rabbits, mice, fish, frogs, young turtles and muskrats. *Date Sighted:* _____