



Wolverine

EXTIRPATED MAMMALS:

Wild populations of these mammals have been eliminated from much of their former range, including Brown County State Park and the entire state of Indiana. This elimination occurred during the early settlement of the state. They survive now in zoos, research institutions, special private collections, and in remaining wild areas elsewhere in North America.

WOLVERINE (*Gulo gulo*)

PORCUPINE (*Erethizon dorsatum*)

GRAY WOLF (*Canis lupus*)

BLACK BEAR (*Ursus americanus*)

FISHER (*Martes pennanti*)

RIVER OTTER (*Lutra canadensis*)

MOUNTAIN LION (*Felis concolor*)

WAPITI or ELK (*Cervus elaphus*)

BISON (*Bison bison*)

Field Notes

Date _____ Time _____

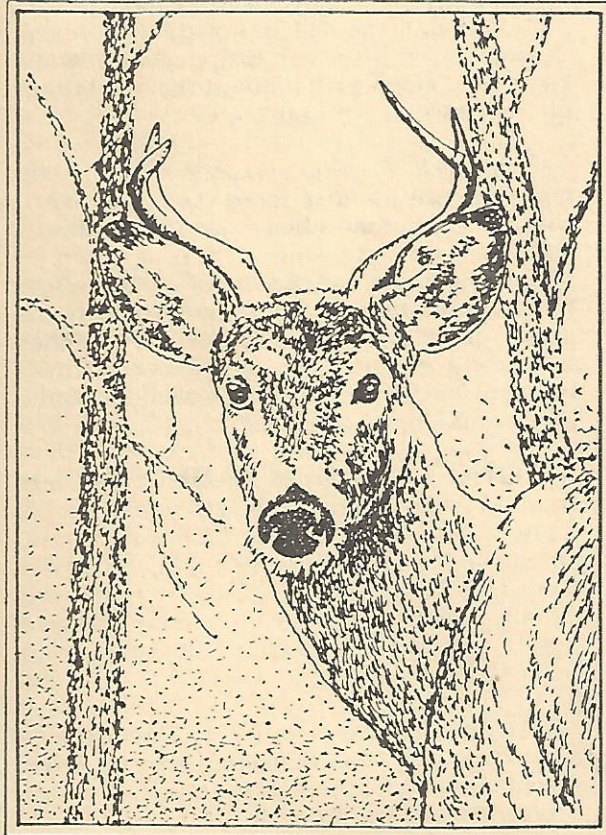
Observations: _____

BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK
NATURE CENTER
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189
MAMMALS

of
**BROWN COUNTY
STATE PARK**



White-Tailed Deer

**NATURALIST SERVICE
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**



Beaver

Surely a hike in the woods is made more enjoyable with the unplanned, spontaneous sightings of any wild animal! What trip afield isn't more easily remembered than those which included a fleeting glimpse of a deer or a scurrying fox on the hunt! Indeed, the expectation of seeing wildlife has brought many a family into our parks. The visitor to Brown County State Park will be duly rewarded if patient, cautious and observant. Most wildlife species do not abide by our time schedule; many are active when we are not! ...take the time, load the camera and walk our many hiking trails; you won't be disappointed!

This guide to the mammals of Brown County State Park is intended to assist you in your wildlife observations. It tells you what animals to expect and where best to look for them. Of course, if you have any questions or comments concerning the park's wildlife, contact the Nature Center staff. Good luck and we hope you enjoy your stay with us!

—**OPOSSUM** (*Dedelpis virginiana*) Common; This gray and silver-haired mammal is the only marsupial in North America. It is closely related to the kangaroo of Australia. Often seen at night as it scavenges the park roads for food, it is also known for being able to hang by its tail.

—**SHORT-TAILED SHREW** (*Blarina brevicauda*) Common; Though distributed throughout southern Indiana, shrews are secretive. They are among the smallest mammals. Shrews have enormous appetites, are extremely active, and move as though "ricocheted" through their environment. They are often mistaken for mice.

—**EASTERN MOLE** (*Scalopus aquaticus*) Common; The mole's presence is obvious wherever it tunnels beneath the sod in search of earthworms, insects and roots. It is most common in the mown, grassy areas of the park.

BATS: These are the only mammals capable of true, self-powered flight. Those found in Indiana are insect-eaters and are correspondingly active during the warm months of the year. Roosting by day and feeding by night, bats may often be seen pursuing insects in the light of street lights. Since the park does not have any caves or tunnels, few if any bats are to be seen in the winter months.

—**LITTLE BROWN BAT** (*Myotis lucifugus*) Common; This bat is best seen at dusk as it swoops near security lights for the insects; look for it by the Nature Center security light in the parking lot.

—**KEEN'S MYOTIS** (*Myotis keeni*) Uncommon; Sometimes roosts in shelters and under bridges; has similar habits to those of the Little Brown Bat.

—**INDIANA BAT** (*Myotis sodalis*) Rare; An endangered species, the Indiana bat by day roosts in buildings, under bridges and under bark of dead trees; over winters in a few caves in southern Indiana; resembles the Little Brown Bat.

—**SILVER-HAIRED BAT** (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) Uncommon; A few individuals have been reported in the park in recent months.

—**EASTERN PIPISTRELLE** (*Pipistrellus subflavus*) Common; This bat is a resident of forested areas where it feeds at tree-top level during night-time hours. It overwinters in southern Indiana.

—**BIG BROWN BAT** (*Eptesicus fuscus*) Common; The Big Brown Bat roosts in almost any favorable shelter. It uses trees, bridges, rock crevices and is particularly associated with buildings.

—**RED BAT** (*Lasiurus borealis*) Common; This bat prefers roosting in trees and bushes, seldom using buildings as other bats frequently do. It usually migrates out of Indiana for the winter.

—**EASTERN COTTONTAIL** (*Sylvilagus floridanus*); Common; The cottontail is abundant in the park. It is extending its range from nearby farmlands into forested areas. This mammal can be a staple in the diets of great-horned owls and foxes.

—**GRAY SQUIRREL** (*Sciurus carolinensis*) Common; This is a squirrel of densely wooded areas where the mast trees (nut producing) are easily found. In all seasons it is grayish in color. Look for it in Ogle Hollow Nature Preserve and along Trails 1 and 2.

—**FOX SQUIRREL** (*Sciurus niger*) Common; The fox squirrel inhabits the more brushy areas of the park. It is distinctly reddish-brown above, with an orange shade on the underparts. It is generally larger in size than the Gray and the tail is almost as long as the body. Look for it by the Nature Center parking lot and in the Rally Campgrounds 1, 2, and 3.

—**WOODCHUCK** (*Marmota monax*) Common; The woodchuck, or ground hog, is a large rodent that feeds almost exclusively on plants and grasses. It is grizzled-gray in appearance, weighs between 5 and 10 pounds, and has short legs. Look for the "whistle pig" as it sits up on its hind legs along the road between the Hoosier Nest's and the park service area.

—**EASTERN CHIPMUNK** (*Tamias striatus*) Common; Listen for the loud bark and chipping chatter as this small rodent flees across the woodland floor for cover. It runs with its tail held straight up! The chipmunk may be seen throughout the park: Trail 1, 2, and 3.

—**SOUTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL** (*Glaucomys volans*) Common; The flying squirrel actually glides through the air on flaps of skin which extend from the forelimbs to the hindlimbs. Strictly nocturnal, it is seldom seen except at dawn and dusk. Look for it around large beech trees.

—**DEER MOUSE** (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) Common; This nocturnal mouse is seldom seen. It usually has a bicolored tail, dark above and white beneath. It favors fields and open areas thick with grasses and weeds. It is a major food source for foxes and hawks.

—**WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE** (*Peromyscus leucopus*) Abundant; The white-footed mouse readily inhabits buildings, brush piles, fence rows and similar shelter. It is a prey animal that is commonly fed on by owls, snakes and weasels. Its habitat include wooded areas and semi-open lands in the park; also found near rotting logs throughout the park.

—**MEADOW VOLE** (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) Common; The meadow vole is the chunky-bodied "mouse" of the grassy roadsides, ditches and woodland borders. They, like many other wildlife populations, experience highs and lows in their numbers over time, and consequently are preyed upon by opportunistic predators. Look for the voles' undergrass runways in any woodland clearing.

—**MUSKRAT** (*Ondatra zibethicus*) Common; The rich brown fur of this small aquatic mammal is in itself a good field mark to watch for; but the long hairless, scaly tail, black in color and flattened vertically, will undoubtedly distinguish the Muskrat from all other mammals; it is sometimes visible along the banks of Lake Strahl and Salt Creek.

—**NORWAY RAT** (*Rattus norvegicus*) Common; This rat came into the Americas with the expansion of western civilization. It was reported in southern Indiana as early as 1827. An absolute pest, the rat displaces native wildlife, acts as a disease carrier, and can be very destructive around buildings. The Norway rat frequents buildings, refuse sites and drainage ditches.

—**HOUSE MOUSE** (*Mus musculus*) Common; The house mouse is known by every homeowner especially in the fall of the year as they seek out warmer conditions in which to spend the winter. It prefers much the same conditions as the Norway Rat.

—**RED FOX** (*Vulpes vulpes*) Uncommon; The red fox is a fox of the open fields where it preys upon mice and other rodents; it typically weighs a scant 10-12 pounds. Sightings may occur at dawn and at dusk.

—**GRAY FOX** (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) Common; Since the gray fox is associated with woodland areas, more sightings of this animal occur than for the red fox. It has a habit of climbing trees where it may inspect the branches for birds' nests. The movement of the gray fox is swift and graceful as it hunts in the early dawn and at dusk. The colorings of the gray include an upperpart of grizzled-gray, white throat, with flanks and underparts a light rusty-orange. The tail is tipped with black, unlike the red fox which is tipped with white. Look for it along park roads at the quiet times of early morning and twilight.

—**RACCOON** (*Procyon lotor*) Very Common; Ask any camper about their experience with the "poor man's bear", and it will almost assuredly produce smiles! It is a powerful animal, however, and observers should refrain from tempting them with handouts. It hunts along streams and ravines where it searches for insects, crayfish, eggs and fruits. Normally nocturnal, it can best be seen near picnic areas and along roadsides.

—**LONG-TAILED WEASEL** (*Mustela frenata*) Uncommon; this stealthy mammal is a predator of young rabbits, chipmunks, rats, shrews and mice. Slender in profile, the weasel has a total length of 10 to 12 inches. They are usually nocturnal and are infrequently seen at dawn near woodland borders and along fencerows.

—**MINK** (*Mustela vison*) Very Uncommon; The mink is a beautiful, dark brown, richly furred mammal of the streams and waterways. There it feeds on crayfish, frogs, and small mammals. Where available, muskrats are a preferred item in the diet. Mink signs may be seen along Salt Creek, by the park's north entrance. Primarily nocturnal, this member of the musk family of mammals (those with scent glands used for defense and for marking territory), is rarely seen except by those extremely quiet and cautious.

—**STRIPED SKUNK** (*Mephitis mephitis*) Uncommon; Like the mink, the skunk is a member of the musk family. Skunk populations experience considerable ups and downs, due to a variety of reasons. A member of the nocturnal family of mammals, the skunk will be active at nighttime. Look for it by the Nature Center parking lot security lights, where it may feed on moths attracted to the light.

—**WHITE-TAILED DEER** (*Odocoileus virginianus*) Common; By the year 1900, deer had almost been eliminated in Indiana. The park property, years ago a state game farm, was chosen as one of the original release sites in southern Indiana as restoration of deer began. Today, with proper management and an ideal habitat available to it statewide, the White-tailed Deer is more abundant than it ever has been in historic times.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL MAMMALS AS WELL AS PLANTS, TREES AND WILDFLOWERS ARE PROTECTED IN ALL INDIANA STATE PARKS

Mammals possibly occurring in the park and county area:

- MASKED SHREW** (*Sorex cinereus*)
- SOUTHEASTERN SHREW** (*Sorex longirostris*)
- LEAST SHREW** (*Cryptotis parva*)
- EVENING BAT** (*Nycticeius humeralis*)
- HOARY BAT** (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
- SOUTHERN BOG LEMMING** (*Synaptomys cooperi*)
- PINE VOLE** (*Microtus pinetorum*)
- PRAIRIE VOLE** (*Microtus ochrogaster*)
- MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE** (*Zapus hudsonius*)
- COYOTE** (*Canis latrans*)
- BOBCAT** (*Lynx rufus*)
- BADGER** (*Taxidea taxus*)
- BEAVER** (*Castor canadensis*)