

Mammals of Elm Fork Preserve

Mammals are characterized by having fur, feeding milk to their young,
having live births & four-chambered hearts.

Comments: The comments section lists remarks in the following order:

- ¹ Interesting facts and natural history associated with the animal. Its place of origin is also listed if it is an alien.
- ² Edible, medicinal or other useful qualities of the animal for humans. The potential for poisoning or otherwise injuring humans is also listed here.
- ³ Food preferences of the animal and potential predators. Ecological impact.
- ⁴ Identifying features of the animal, especially differences between similar species.
- ⁵ Dates, times and locations of animals sighted. Observed behaviors.
- ⁶ Synonyms; outdated or recently changed scientific names are inserted here.
- ⁷ Control measures. The date, method and reason for any selective elimination.
- ⁸ Intentional Introductions. The date, source and reason for any animal introductions.
- ⁹ Identification references. Species identifications were made by the author unless otherwise noted. Identifications were verified using the reference material cited.
- ¹⁰ Accession made. Photos were taken and filed by date. Bones or other hard evidence was collected.

Kingdom: Animalia > Phylum: Chordata > Subphylum: Vertebrata > Class: Mammalia

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Dog, Domestic	¹ Dogs have been domesticated for at least 12 thousand years. More than 400 different breeds are in existence, most having arisen from the wolf (Stanek, 1962, p.488). ⁵ Numerous encounters with humans walking their domestic dogs. Please Note: Dogs are not allowed in the preserve.
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote	⁹ 26 Jan 02 - Jim Varnum notes seeing one coyote around noon at an undescribed location.
<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Beaver	¹ Young beavers strike out on their own at age two. If unable to find good unoccupied territory to live, they often return home again, even after an absence of months or years, and are accepted by their parents. Beavers distinguish between family and non-family and will drive away any non-family beavers that encroach on their territory (Ryden, 1989, pp.107-108). ⁵ 19 Dec 02 – Noted one fresh hind print of an adult beaver at the big pond. Also a few cattail stalks were eaten. All indications point to the very recent arrival of a beaver. 14 Jan 03 – Two freshly chewed willow branches were found in the water at the edge of the big pond. A tremendous quantity of the existing cattail stand has been cut for food and is floating at the waters edge. ⁹ (Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.86)
<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	Armadillo	⁵ 24 July 98 – Encountered a large adult armadillo while conducting an interpretive hike in the evening. 22 Aug 98 – Large group on a night hike saw 2 armadillos.
<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	Opossum	⁵ 23 Jan 03 – Lori Tracy, former Parks & Recreation Leader for the City of Carrollton, reports that Carrollton animal control services has released several raccoons and opossums onto the preserve. ⁹ (Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.15)

<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>	Human	⁵ 26 April 03 – Observed a massive gathering of humans on this day. An event known as the ‘Naturefest’ prompted the congregation. While it may seem somewhat frivolous to note the presence of humans in this list, they are of utmost consequence to the ecology.
<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Bobcat	⁵ 23 Jan 03 – Lori Tracy, saw one in the morning with a rabbit in its mouth at the big pond. ⁹ (Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.261)
<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Skunk, Striped	⁵ Summer 99 – The author and his older son followed an adult at the western corner of the preserve in a field near the preserve entrance. We were able to approach within a few feet of the skunk without causing it any agitation as it pounced repeatedly on grasshoppers in the tall grass. ⁹ (Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.248)
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon	⁵ 16 Sept 01 - Jim Varnum reported seeing one at an undescribed time and location. 23 Jan 03 – Lori Tracy saw one sometime in November 2002. It ran underneath the interpretive center and kept on going. ⁹ (Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.232)
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Squirrel, Eastern Fox	¹ Fox squirrels weigh in at 2-3 pounds as adults. ³ They are almost solely vegetarians, adding the occasional insect to their meals in spring and summer. Main articles of diet include: Acorns, hackberry seeds, elm seeds and leaf buds and mulberry leaf buds (Martin & Nelson, 1951, p. 233). ⁵ 14 Jan 03 – Noted on the trail near the interpretive center. ⁹ (see Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.117)
<i>Sylvilagus aquaticus</i>	Rabbit, Swamp	⁵ 29 Oct 99 – Swamp rabbit scat on the tops of fallen logs in the currently dry slough. 14 Jan 03 – Fresh pellets deposited on top of a fallen log – Pellets averaged 12mm in diameter. Located far from the slough – GPS: 32° 57.269N, 96° 56.095W ⁹ (Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.86)
<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Rabbit, Eastern Cottontail	¹ Cottontails emerge in early twilight to feed and are generally active into early morning. They are not sociable rabbits and are not often seen feeding together. They are quite prolific, having as many as eight young (usually four) at a time, with up to five litters in a year (Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.90). ³ They feed on a variety of forbs and grasses. ⁵ 14 Jan 03 -- Encountered old pellets deposited on the ground along numerous old runs & abandoned forms. Location: Northern end of the cross trail, NE of the red mulberry sign, in a wide patch of Johnson (or purpletop) grass. 17 Feb 04 - Spooked an adult in the tall grass on the south side of the Cross Trail. ⁹ For identification details, tracks and habits, see (Milam, March 1996)
<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Fox, Gray	⁵ 1 Nov 98 – A small group of Boy Scouts were edging their way to the dry slough. An adult and his son were the first to spot the fox and startled it. Most of the group, including the author, had a good view of the fox as it ran away.
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Fox, Red	⁵ 23 Jan 03 – Lori Tracy stated that she got a good look at one. ⁹ (Davis & Schmidly, 1994, p.223)



- ◆ To investigate small rodents that are likely to occur at the preserve, see the Wild Vision Newsletter April 1996, Vol. 2, Issue 4, pp.1-4.
- ◆ For a look at bats of north central Texas, see the Wild Vision Newsletter October 1996, Vol. 2, Issue 10, pp.1-2
- ◆ For information on local mammal tracks and food preferences, see the Wild Vision Newsletter November/December 1997, Vol. 3, Issue 6

Reference:

Davis, William B. & David J. Schmidly. The Mammals of Texas. Austin, Texas: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Nongame And Urban Program, 1994.

Hickman, Cleveland P., Larry Roberts & Frances Hickman. Biology of Animals. St. Louis, MO: Times Mirror/Mosby College Publishing, 1986.

Martin, Alexander C., Herbert Zim & Arnold L. Nelson. American Wildlife & Plants - A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits. New York, NY: Dover Publications Inc., 1951.

Milam, Royce. "Field Identification Notes for Rats of North Central Texas". Wild Vision Newsletter. May 1996, Volume 2, Issue 5, p.2

Milam, Royce. Natural History Notebook. The following dates: 28 Oct 97, 12 Feb 98, 9 July 98, 22 July 98, 27 Sept 98, 31 Oct 98, 1 Nov 98, 13 April 99, 22 April 99, 28 April 99, 29 Oct 99. (All dates pertain to Elm Fork Preserve, but not all contain herpefauna data).

Milam, Royce. Completed Program Summaries. The following dates: 2 May 98, 19 June 98, 8 July 98, 24 July 98, 22 Aug 98, 1 Oct 98, 10 Oct 98, 31 Oct 98, 1 Nov 98, 2 Nov 98, 26 March 99, 25 April 99, 21 May 99, 21 June 99, 24 June 99, 6 July 99, 28 Oct 99, 4 Nov 99, 31 Jan 00, 30 April 00, 9 Oct 01, 19 Dec 02 (All dates pertain to Elm Fork Preserve, but not all contain herpefauna data). (personal note: This is not a full listing of completed programs for EFP – only those with an after walk summary.)

Ryden, Hope. Lily Pond. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1989.

Stanek, V. J. The Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Animal Kingdom. New York, New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1962.



Caution: Alteration of this electronic document destroys data integrity and voids all liability for species misidentification by the author.



Additions to this list are welcomed. Please be sure to include the following information on any submissions: The person's name that is making the identification, as well as the date, time, location, evidence used for identification (bones, tracks, scat, photos, etc) and any reference used in the identifications. Submit lists to Royce Milam at wyldvision@aol.com