

What Lives In Vegas Stays In Vegas - Mammalwatching in Southern Nevada

By Bryan Kao

bkaowildlife@gmail.com



Portrait of a **Merriam's Kangaroo Rat** being released into its natural habitat during a small mammal survey in Corn Creek.

An Arid Ecosystem

Famous, or perhaps infamous, for its casinos, nightlife, resorts, as well as its entertainment and conference venues, Las Vegas, Nevada may be renowned for the Strip, but there's much more to do here. From an ecological perspective, it is the largest urban settlement in the Mojave Desert. As the driest of the North American deserts, it regularly goes over 200 days a year without rainfall. Also, temperatures regularly exceed 38 degrees Celsius in summertime, meaning that most of the 70 or so mammal species out here, including me in the sweltering months, lead nocturnal or crepuscular lifestyles. Of course, this means the vast majority of

residents and tourists usually don't get to see much and might be unaware of wildlife, but this adds a challenge to the noble sport of mammalwatching! Over a span of three months, I saw a total of eleven mammal families in four sites. This trip report showcases different mammalwatching sites accessible around Las Vegas and the species that live there, with plenty of birds to boot. I visited these sites from late July to the end of October 2025, and should I find more mammals in the area, I'll write another trip report.

Hemenway Park

On the way from Las Vegas to Lake Mead, the artificial reservoir that provides water for the city and also generates electricity at Hoover Dam, there sits a patch of green, irrigated by sprinklers, at the base of some rocky hills. This is Hemenway Park in Boulder City, a 10-acre municipal park with a playground, basketball and tennis courts, softball fields, as well as a nature trail in the desert with plenty of signage about local mammals and birds. But the reason I went there was to make up for something embarrassing. In my almost 30 years of seeing animals, I had never actually seen a wild bovid of any species! Sure, I had seen and photographed anoa and banteng, chamois and duikers, elands and Formosan serow, gaur and Himalayan tahr, impala and Japanese serow, klipspringer and lesser kudu, markhor and nilgai, oryxes and plenty of others, but all were in zoos and safari parks. Having spent most of my life in the northeastern US, where the only ungulate was White-Tailed Deer, and traveling nearly entirely to countries with zero or few bovids while spending most of my time in cities, I just never had the opportunity to find any. So when my friends Ameera and Jason mentioned that they knew a place where herds of dauntless **Desert Bighorn Sheep** (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) congregated out in the open to graze on an irrigated green grass lawn, I made that my priority site to get a glaringly obvious family lifer!

Between April and October, when the lawn is greenest, the bighorn descend the nearby River Mountains to feast on the reliable food source. One afternoon near the end of July, after checking the handy Boulder City Ram Cam website and verifying that a herd was relaxing on the lawn, my friends and I went over to see them. To our extreme dismay, by the time we got there the park was empty. Asking around, a local woman reading a book on the grass told us that some

curmudgeonly lady had suddenly appeared, ran at the sheep, and spooked them all into fleeing back into the hills! What a horrible way to treat Nevada's majestic state animal!

Luckily, in a few days we were able to make up for that unlucky, baaaad experience. After checking the Ram Cam again one early August morning, I ensured that the herd had indeed returned and hadn't lost their confidence in the green pastures. Ameera and I went back to Hemenway Park for a rematch. As we parked, we were already surrounded by sheep on one side! We saw at least twenty individuals, with the ewes and two older lambs clustering together on the lawn in the shade of some trees, a precious resource on a scorching summer day. Rams were more spread out: some were loners browsing from creosote shrubs in the desert trail portion of the park, others made a grand entrance as small bachelor herds descended from the rubble terrain of the mountains, and yet another male tried and pathetically failed to mate with a female.



Portrait of a majestic and cute **Desert Bighorn** ram, the symbol of Dodge Ram Trucks and the namesake of the Los Angeles Rams NFL team.

Many but not all of these curve-horned friends were adorned with colorful tags in one or both ears. Presumably this was the work of Nevada Department of Wildlife researchers monitoring their populations, a concern since there was a history of pneumonia outbreaks ravaging their population in previous years. It was a magical morning observing charismatic megafauna right in front of us, with cars, houses, and basketball players providing a jarring contrast of a background. It seemed to me that the locals had become totally accustomed and desensitized to the sheep, carrying on with their sports and games and sharing the space with a general lack of conflict. Signs warn against bringing dogs to the park, to maintain peace for the sheep. Overall, the experience reminded me of the world-famous Sika Deer park in Nara, Japan where in 2013 I was swarmed by cute but pushy hoofstock, albeit less interactive and with less aggressive fauna. Seems like the rules against feeding and touching **Bighorn Sheep** were effective here, as the animals were all peaceful in temperament. They neither chased us demanding food, nor did they cower or flee as we watched them and took pictures. Very tolerant creatures.



What are ewe looking at?



This lamb was starting to grow in its horns.

Having seen this exact subspecies in rocky enclosures at San Diego Zoo Safari Park, Los Angeles Zoo, and Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, none of those views compared to seeing this wild herd up close. I'm happy this became my first experience seeing a wild member of Bovidae, finally meeting a long-term goal with style. Other mammals we found at Hemenway Park, among the creosote bushes, were some distant views of **White-Tailed Antelope Squirrel** (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*) and **Desert Cottontail** (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). When it comes to birds at this site, I was also elated to get my first view of a wild *Greater Roadrunner* (*Geococcyx californianus*), a celebrated symbol of the Wild West and Looney Toons cartoons. These versatile ground-dwelling cuckoos soon became a reliably seen species on my hikes around Las Vegas's parks, and I've seen them more often than not at most sites I visit. Never boring, these little Velociraptor-like birds are ever active, dashing around, flying up and down small trees for shelter, leaping to snap up flying insects, and scuttling out of bushes with lizard prey in their long bills. The *Roadrunners* at Hemenway Park alternate between foraging in natural desert habitat and the green lawn, and true to their name, they vivaciously covered much distance fast.



In the heat of the summer day, *Greater Roadrunners* seek shade and shelter by roosting in tree canopies - if they can find them.

After a fruitful morning of iconic desert animals, we drove to Lake Mead's shoreline for some picturesque views of the concerning low reservoir, much diminished by a decades-long and worsening megadrought reminding us to conserve and recycle water when living in a desert. Shoreline-dwelling birds appreciating the artificial water source and the rocky beach habitat included opportunistic generalists like *Common Raven* (*Corvus corax*) and *Ring-Billed Gull* (*Larus delawarensis*), as well as a pretty little songbird I had never seen before, the Mohave subspecies of Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris ammophila*). Small flocks of them hopped around, camouflaging among the rocky terrain with their pale plumage, and males displayed a lovely black and yellow pattern on their faces and necks in addition to their distinctive feather tuft "horns" on the backs of their heads.

Boulder City and Lake Mead make for a good day trip, but make sure to check the Ram Cam before heading over there if watching the **Desert Bighorn Sheep** is your main goal.



The painting-like vista of Lake Mead on a hot summer's day.



A bird of open areas, the *Horned Lark* has a distinctive painted face.

Sunset Park

Around Las Vegas, one of my favorite places to go for a stroll is Sunset Park, in the southeast of the city and near Harry Reid International Airport. The largest park in Clark County, Nevada with 324 acres of land and a fourteen-acre artificial pond, there's something here for everyone. With a desert section consisting of protected sand dunes viewable from an observation deck and circular trails, grassy lawns, sports practice sites for baseball, tennis, basketball, and pickleball, playgrounds, picnic areas, rock piles, and pine trees around the pond, Sunset Park provides a diversity of contrasting habitats suitable for biodiversity. One morning in September I managed to find six mammal species within two hours!

The protected honey mesquite and dune habitat in the south end of Sunset Park is a preserved relic of what landscapes were like around the Las Vegas Valley before urbanization. Very hot and dry, it captures the essence of what most people envision when they think of a desert. In fact, some locals even leave out small dishes and bowls full of water as an offering to thirsty dogs and native wildlife, spots that sometimes prove useful in attracting small mammals for viewing. I regularly explore this area, although parts of it are adjacent to busy roads and looking for mammals at the fenceline is less fruitful. Many locals use the trail loops here for exercise: jogging, cycling, and walking their dogs.

In the desert, lurking among the mesquite shrubs, are ubiquitous **Desert Cottontails**. Without fail, I have seen several every time I stroll around this zone, in early morning, midday, and thermal scoping at night, although I tend to see the highest number of them out and about after dawn, especially on hot summer days. Often they stand on their hind legs and munch some browse from the lower honey mesquite branches, looking adorably anthropomorphic, like Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit cover art! They're also not too afraid of humans and some of them sheepishly glance to the side when being watched, as if that was enough to evade my sight. However, when visiting this site I'm far more interested in seeing another, much larger lagomorph, one that's more of a cultural icon in the American West.



By far the easiest mammal to find around Las Vegas, both in day and spotlighting at night, is the hardy and adaptable **Desert Cottontail**.

After searching several other iNaturalist-pinned sites around Las Vegas to no avail, my first encounter with the graceful **Black-Tailed Jackrabbit** (*Lepus californicus*) was on a night hike on this desert trail in August. One figure, several times the size of a **Desert Cottontail**, dashed across my path into the sand dunes, too far out of range for photography. When I tried the site again one September morning hoping for a daytime view of the hare, I was rewarded. After returning to the start of the trail loop, one jackrabbit came bounding across the dunes and shrubs with an extreme urgency, keeping far more than a hare's breadth away from the trail! I wondered who or what had startled it. This was my first good view of any wild hare, and it put on quite the show!



Speedy and timid, a **Black-Tailed Jackrabbit** bounding across the sand is a marvel to behold.

Soon enough, I learned the reason why this jackrabbit was so eager to head into the thickets. A passing jogger pointed far into the dunes at the bushes and said “Look, a **Coyote!**” Indeed, a particularly small individual of **Mearns’ Coyote** (*Canis latrans mearnsi*), the small, brightly-colored subspecies that rules as the apex predator of the Mojave Desert, stood still in the shade, posing for a few seconds, before shambling in the direction of the jackrabbit but way too far away to catch its quarry. Looks like my big-eared buddy narrowly escaped a hare-y situation!

As urban thrivers, **Coyotes** have proven themselves successful at dwelling in and on the outskirts of North American cities and suburbs, although they are still elusive and evasive around humans. At dawn and dusk in parks, it’s far easier to hear their echoing howls calling and responding than it is to catch a glimpse of one. Around Las Vegas I’ve also seen them at Clark County Wetlands Park before dawn and a particularly large individual at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park.



“Beware of **Coyotes**” signs are placed around the park, and they indeed show up to hunt small mammals.

Besides lagomorphs and canids, squirrels are also prevalent around Las Vegas. Sunset Park’s arid dunes, brushland, and rock piles are particularly productive places to find two species of adorable and bold ground squirrels, who are often drawn to the water dishes strewn around their habitat. Although the handsomely-striped **White-Tailed Antelope Squirrel** is the most commonly seen rodent across various open habitats in Las Vegas, it’s often shy and runs away from even a long approaching distance. In Sunset Park though, not so much. The edge habitat where the desert preserve meets the parking lot is reliable for close views of this energetic critter, which often shows up in pairs. Likewise, the unstriped and also adorable **Round-Tailed Ground Squirrel** (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus*) will also appear in pairs, and on summer mornings both species can be seen flattening themselves in the shade to thermoregulate. Be warned: the **Round-Tailed Ground Squirrel** will spend the fall and winter in torpor, hunkered down in subterranean burrows, so spring and summer are the best seasons to confidently see them out and about.



White-Tailed Antelope Squirrels often rear up and pose like this.



Round-Tailed Ground Squirrels are only active above-ground in spring and summer.



A ground squirrel yin-yang formation, attempting to keep cool on a hot summer morning.

The final mammal species I encountered in the desert section of Sunset Park was a chance encounter at night. While testing my new thermal one August night, I ran into a **Black-Tailed Jackrabbit** and my flashlight picked up the eyeshine of something small on a hill drawing near. It paused at a distance and curiously stared down at me for over a minute. Thinking it was merely a feral cat, I decided to take some photos anyway to test out my camera's night settings. Only when I got home and looked at the footage did I realize it was something a tad more exotic: a **Western Bobcat** (*Lynx rufus fasciatus*)! There had been no prior pins for them in Sunset Park. Funny enough, this bobcat encounter became my very first wild view of any felid!

Daytime on the desert trails is also great for birding: *Gambel's Quail* (*Callipepla gambelii*), *Anna's Hummingbird* (*Calypte anna*), *Abert's Towhee* (*Melospiza aberti*), and *Greater Roadrunner* are all common sights.



Western Bobcats can adapt to urban lifestyles, but they often remain shy and nocturnal.



A male *Gambel's Quail* poses triumphantly, flaunting his dangly crest. Cute, fun, and noisy!



Found in a relatively small range in the American Southwest, *Abert's Towhees* hide in the brush and forage for seeds on the ground.

As for the non-desert portions of Sunset Park, one mammal especially dominates: the industrious **Fulvous Pocket Gopher** (*Megascapheus fulvus*)! This species was recently split from the more renowned **Botta's Pocket Gopher** (*Thomomys bottae*), and the population around Las Vegas has a pale, sandy coat. Lawns, baseball diamonds, playgrounds, and picnic areas - where there is grass, it will be pockmarked by vast sprawling networks of gopher mounds, to the point where parkgoers have complained about the uneven terrain. However, just because the pocket gophers' homes are visible does not mean they will always be reliably seen. The vast majority of mounds are inactive, and it's a matter of chance whether or not an individual will be surfaced, refurbishing its burrow entrance in plain sight. More often than not though, in the cooler months I'll at least find two gophers per visit poking their heads out of the soil. I always feel blessed when I get a good view. Another wild family lifer, Geomyidae, in the books for me!



This **Fulvous Pocket Gopher** was busy building a mound right next to a public restroom!



Photographing pocket gophers is like whale watching - gotta anticipate when and where they'll surface!

I haven't found any other wild mammals in the non-desert portion of Sunset Park, but birding has been far more productive, especially around the pond. Migratory waterfowl and grebes tend to stop by in fall and winter to join the year-round populations and there's always some perching birds flocking around, whether resident or migratory. This artificial water source is always worth a stroll to see if any unexpected bird species show up out of the blue!



Known for their iconic curved bills used for foraging in fine sediment, *American Avocets* (*Recurvirostra americana*) are migratory wading birds drawn to the few large bodies of water around Las Vegas's parks. Flocks of them fill the sky with raucous high-pitched calls, and I chanced upon this flock circling the pond majestically before splashing down during my first visit to Sunset Park in August.



Female *Belted Kingfishers* (*Megaceryle alcyon*) have rufous bands on their chest and flanks.



A graceful diver, this *Eared Grebe* (*Podiceps nigricollis californicus*) is in winter plumage.



The largest of its family in North America, the *Western Grebe* (*Aechmophorus occidentalis occidentalis*) has piercing red eyes, a skewer-like bill, and an ungainly gait on land.



No points for guessing why this drake is called a *Redhead* (*Aythya americana*).



The ring on a male *Ring-Necked Duck* (*Aythya collaris*)'s neck is far more subtle than the one on his bill!



American Wigeons (*Mareca americana*) are some of the smaller ducks at assemblages.



Agile flycatchers, *Say's Phoebes* (*Sayornis saya saya*) sit on perches and swoop on flying insects in midair.

Clark County Wetlands Park

A 2,900-acre park on the eastern portion of the Las Vegas Valley covering part of the Las Vegas Wash, Clark County Wetlands Park, a county-run institution, is a lovely nature preserve and educational center. With a variety of hiking and biking trails among mesquite scrubland, open rocky desert, green oasis, fields of tall reeds, ponds, and a bridge spanning a weir offering overhead views of waterbirds and riverbanks, there's plenty of habitats to explore. There's also a nature center building complex by the parking lot with an auditorium for educational lectures, a gift shop with a seasonal art gallery where local artists can display and sell their nature-themed works, a room with interactive displays and dioramas about hydrology, ecology, and natural history of the Las Vegas Wash as well as an aquarium tank for the endemic *Moapa White River Springfish* (*Crenichthys baileyi moapae*), and an outdoor lookout point with telescopes.



Variable in color and pattern, the *Moapa White River Springfish* (*Crenichthys baileyi moapae*) is native to a handful of hot springs near Las Vegas,

Clark County Wetlands Park is notable for having a population of beavers in the desert! Ironical. Decades ago, **North American Beavers** (*Castor canadensis*) naturally migrated along the Colorado River as it was being artificially diverted to provide water for the American Southwest's cities, spreading through the Las Vegas Wash. Of course, they stick to the wet parts of the wetlands, making their lodges among the labyrinthine reeds and feeding at dawn and dusk. Eagerly seizing the opportunity to see North America's largest native rodent in nature as opposed to the many zoos I've seen them at, I made my first visit to the Wetlands Park slightly before dawn. On my way to the first pond, I encountered several Desert Cottontails next to the path as well as multiple unidentifiable vesper bats (*Vespertilionidae*) flitting about overhead. Soon enough, on the little bridge literally labeled "Beaver Bridge" on Google Maps overlooking an area called Vern's Pond, a beaver appeared midwater, illuminated by the dim light of the wee hours of the morning.



This **North American Beaver** dutifully patrolled the center of its pond habitat, always circling it counterclockwise.

After the sun rose a little bit more, the beaver decided it had swum enough laps and cruised into the distance, vanishing behind a thick curtain of reeds. Another mammal wild family lifer, Castoridae, accomplished! But the beaver was not the only interesting mammal I would find that dawn. Looking to the opposite side of the bridge, I saw a dirt path and an even more vast and expansive field of reeds, looking like a cornfield that B-movie aliens would have a blast sketching crop circles in. Suddenly, something large darted through a rocky clearing for a few seconds before heading into the dense vegetation. Turns out it was a **Mearns' Coyote**, probably heading to a secluded rest spot before the sweltering heat of the day kicked in. Two decently big mammals, right on opposite sides of the same bridge, one wet and one dry. What a convenient location for mammalwatching!



Coyotes are a significant predator of **North American Beavers**, so to see one dart across a clearing on the other side of the bridge from the beaver made for an interesting connection.

The winding wetland trails provide for some excellent birding in diverse habitats. So far, over the course of my frequent visits I've seen around twenty different avian species in summer and fall. Waterfowl, wading birds, hummingbirds, birds of prey such as *Ospreys* and *Great Horned Owls*, strange nocturnal flyers like *Lesser Nighthawks*, and others make for a bountiful hiking experience any time of day. This is also the spot around Las Vegas where I've had the easiest and closest encounters with some curious and rather tame *Greater Roadrunners*; their species to me is basically an honorary mammal at this point. There was once a September day where I saw nothing interesting only to encounter a compensatory roadrunner in the parking lot as I was preparing to leave. On a cooler November morning midday I encountered roadrunners on no less than five separate occasions! Another must-see bird in the Wetlands is the *Phainopepla*, a noisy, mistletoe berry-eating silky-flycatcher that can mimic other bird calls. Both the black-plumed males and the gray-plumed females are gorgeous, and they tend to be more common in this park during the cooler months..



Glossy black feathers, a retractable crest, and piercing red eyes are iconic to a male *Phainopepla*.



Always hopping, *Black-Tailed Gnatcatchers* are limited in range to the American Southwest.



Orange-Crowned Warblers only show their namesake orange crowns when excited.



One stretchy *Greater Roadrunner* showing off the orange mark behind its eye.

In October, I tagged along with UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) biology professor Dr. Sean Neiswenter and his students on two days of their small mammal survey in Clark County Wetlands Park. Their goal was to capture local rodent species richness via Sherman traps so that they could collect DNA, stool, and flea samples for a deeper understanding of potential urban wildlife interactions in Las Vegas. Having never gone trapping before, I quickly learned how to set Sherman traps and retrieve them the following morning. For the sake of mammal photography with naturalistic backgrounds, I brought an all-purpose bucket and filled it with the substrate found at each research site, which was a mix of sand, rock, and woodchips in this type of habitat. I also got plenty of practice taking pictures of rodents being released, snapping quick shots of them the moment a second person placed them on the ground right before they ran away. Trapping and surveying small mammals was an exciting new method of mammalwatching for me, and I'm grateful to the Neiswenter Lab for teaching me how it's done.

On Day 1 of this two-day wetland survey, we ended up ensnaring multiple individuals of three species, each representing a different rodent family. Dr. Neiswenter's priority was collecting data on **Desert Woodrats** (*Neotoma lepida*) of Cricetidae, and indeed that was the species we caught the most individuals of. As a lifer species for me, I was pleased about the opportunity to photograph different adults and juveniles. We also encountered a few **Desert Pocket Mice** (*Chaetodipus penicillatus*), so happily, Heteromyidae became my 43rd wild mammal family. The third species we found in the traps was the introduced **Brown Rat** (*Rattus norvegicus*). I was amazed to learn that in such a hot desert city, they still thrive in residential areas. Water is the limiting factor in their range, so they are absent from the sand dunes and rocky deserts on the outskirts of town. On the second day, trapping in a slightly different spot we again found those three species, while adding a fourth, the **Cactus Mouse** (*Peromyscus eremicus*). These little guys mostly appeared in traps set under trees or surrounded by shrubs.



This **Desert Pocket Mouse** posed adorably when released in its natural habitat.



Generally sweet and mellow, **Desert Pocket Mice** can be gently handled.



This **Desert Woodrat** posed for a few seconds during its release, then hopped into the bushes.



Definitely wear gloves if you want to handle a **Desert Woodrat**.



This juvenile **Cactus Mouse** was developing its adult coat.

Corn Creek

On Halloween morning, I joined Dr. Neiswenter, his students, and two other researchers on another survey at Corn Creek, a lowland flat desert area to the northwest of Las Vegas. They had set traps the previous evening in a sand-bottomed area dominated by small shrubs. The goal was to look for **Southern Grasshopper Mice** (*Onychomys torridus*), as Dr. Neiswenter had found seven there one spring years ago. Unfortunately, we had a meager haul that morning with very low trap success rate, but the traps yielded a handful of friendly **Merriam's Kangaroo Rats** (*Dipodomys merriami*) as well as one cantankerous **Western Deer Mouse** (*Peromyscus sonoriensis*) that we had hoped would be a grasshopper mouse! Still, we took DNA samples from all the rodents and released them. Innocent-looking little furballs, **Merriam's Kangaroo Rats**, the smallest *Dipodomys* in the American Southwest are commonly caught on surveys, and the students and I took turns practicing handling them for photos before release.



Merriam's Kangaroo Rats are rather docile. This one, who the students nicknamed Colonel Corn, rested in the warmth of my hand.



After release, Colonel Corn was treated to some peanut-butter coated oats before heading home.



This **Western Deer Mouse** had a feisty personality. Note the gray stripe on its long tail.

It wouldn't be Halloween without owls, so that afternoon, I decided to check out a nearby site I found on Google Maps where *Western Burrowing Owls* (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) dwelled and nested. The Rainbow Owl Preserve, located in North Las Vegas, is a series of three separate fenced lots providing habitat to a population of burrowing owls. Years ago, concerned residents and Red Rock Audubon birders were afraid that rapid housing development would drive out the owls that lived in those seemingly empty lots of rubble, so landowners donated sites where owls nested to protect them from construction. Now the owls have been banded for research, and they have been provided with artificial burrows made of pipes, bricks, and rocks for nesting as well as posts and poles for lookout. At one of the sites, from parking my car next to the fence I could already see an owl. It was resting in the shade at the entrance of its burrow and didn't mind my presence from the other side of the chain-link fence. Cute. A Halloween well spent!



This **Burrowing Owl**, banded for a long-term survey, dwells in an artificial burrow nest as part of a habitat restoration project.



A view into one of the fenced-off owl habitats.

Overall, Las Vegas has been very good to me when it comes to mammalwatching and getting lifers. I got five wild family lifers for families I had exclusively seen in captivity up until now, five species lifers, and six wild species lifers that I had only seen in zoos and rescue centers prior. ¡Viva Las Vegas, y Viva los Mamíferos!

Mammal Species Count:

Wild lifer, Total lifer

1. **Desert Bighorn Sheep** (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*)
2. **Mearns' Coyote** (*Canis latrans mearnsi*)
3. **Western Bobcat** (*Lynx rufus fasciatus*)
4. **Black-Tailed Jackrabbit** (*Lepus californicus*)
5. **Desert Cottontail** (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)
6. **White-Tailed Antelope Squirrel** (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*)
7. **Round-Tailed Ground Squirrel** (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus*)
8. **Fulvous Pocket Gopher** (*Megascapheus fulvus*)
9. **North American Beaver** (*Castor canadensis*)
10. **Desert Woodrat** (*Neotoma lepida*)
11. **Desert Pocket Mouse** (*Chaetodipus penicillatus*)
12. **Cactus Mouse** (*Peromyscus eremicus*)
13. **Brown Rat** (*Rattus norvegicus*)
14. **Merriam's Kangaroo Rat** (*Dipodomys merriami*)
15. **Western Deer Mouse** (*Peromyscus sonoriensis*)
16. **Unidentified Vesper Bats** (Vespertilionidae)

Mammal Order and Family Count:

Wild lifer

1. Artiodactyla
 - a. Bovidae
2. Carnivora
 - a. Canidae
 - b. Felidae
3. Lagomorpha
 - a. Leporidae
4. Rodentia
 - a. Sciuridae
 - b. Castoridae
 - c. Heteromyidae
 - d. Geomyidae
 - e. Cricetidae
 - f. Muridae
5. Chiroptera
 - a. Vespertilionidae

Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Dr. Sean Neiswenter, Kamdyn Watts, Christian Levy, Meya Cohn, Adrienne Reschman, and my friends Ameera Rubani and Json DelToro.