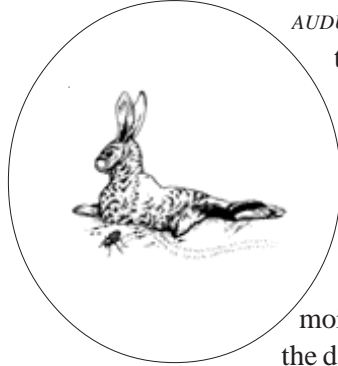


Mammal List

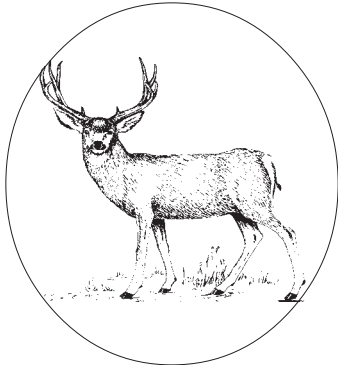
ELK (*CERVUS ELAPHUS*) The elk herd moved back into Chaco in the 1999. Many opportunities arise to see the estimated 60 resident elk throughout the year. The best time to catch a glimpse of the second largest cervid in North America, however is in the fall. Thanks to efforts made by the state of New Mexico and private individuals who strove to restore the nearly extinct animal from 1910 to 1966, elk population estimates within the state soar upwards of 72,000.



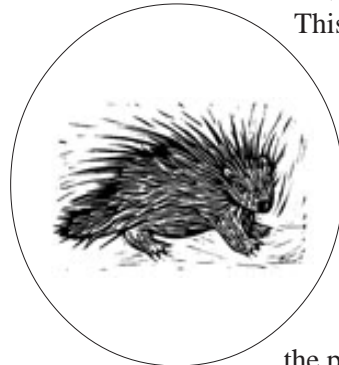
DESERT COTTONTAIL (*SYVILAGUS AUDUBONLI*) The cottontail is one of the most abundant mammals in the park. You might get a laugh seeing them sprawled out in the summertime around the parking lots and prehistoric sites. Cottontails conserve their energy and moisture by avoiding activity in the daylight hours. To provide excellent warmth during the winter months, the Chacoans wove cloaks and blankets out of rabbit fur.



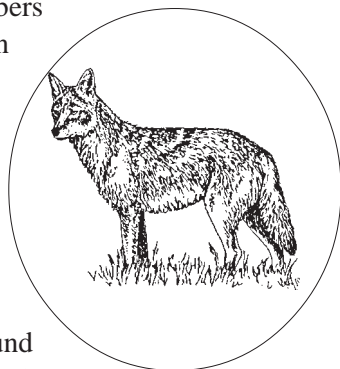
MULE DEER (*OBDOCOLLEUS HEMIONUS*) Mule deer can be a little on the shy side, but keep an eye out for them around the loop road and the washes. Typically seen in the fall, deer are most visible in the early morning and late afternoon. Population estimates hover around 50, but its exact size remains unknown. The Chacoans utilized deer bone for tools and ceremonial objects, the meat for food, and hides for warmth.



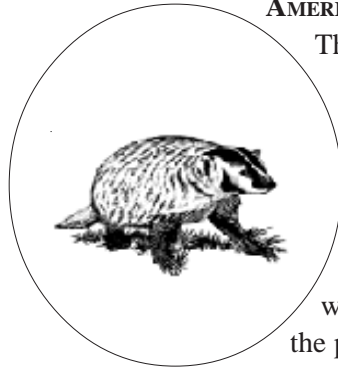
PORCUPINE (*ERITHIZON DORSATUM*) This large rodent makes periodical appearances within the canyon. Porcupines are herbivores and love to eat tree bark (having the potential to strip trees completely bare). As with all animals in the park, keep your distance when viewing porcupines. They don't actually throw their quills, but contact with the sharp objects can be rather painful.



COYOTE (*CANIS LATRANS*) These members of the dog family are quite prevalent in Chaco. You can see them running down the road or prowling on top of the mesas. If you're lucky, you might catch the unusual pairing of the coyote and badger who often hunt together. It might sound strange, but this phenomenon has been reported many times in the park especially around the South Mesa. Many rock art panels feature coyote images.



AMERICAN BADGER (*TAXIDEA TAXUS*) The badger is an excellent hunter and masters the skill by digging lots of burrows and capturing its prey with its strong, sharp claws. Sometimes they will invade another animal's burrow, wait for its return, and attack the prey. You can see many burrows along the South Mesa Trail where you might see the earlier described interaction with coyote.



Identify these mammals.

Have you seen any of these creatures in the park?

A.



B.



C.



(See reverse side for answers)

Order/ Common Name	Latin Name	Abundance
ORDER: ARTIODACTYLA		
Elk	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	C
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hermonius</i>	C
ORDER: CARVIVORA		
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	C
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	U
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	U
Puma	<i>Puma concolor</i>	U
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	U
Common grey fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	U
Black bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	R
Kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	U
ORDER: CHIROPTERA		
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	C
Western lump-nosed bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	U
Big brown bat	<i>Epstisicus fuscus</i>	R
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	R
Silver-haired bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	U
Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	R
California myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>	C
Western small-footed bat	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	C
Long-eared myotis	<i>Myotis evotis</i>	U
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	C
Long-legged myotis	<i>Myotis volans</i>	U
Yuma myotis	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	U
Big free-tailed bat	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	R
Western pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus hesperus</i>	C
Brazilian free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	U

Order/ Common Name	Latin Name	Abundance
ORDER: INSECTIVORA		
Desert shrew	<i>Notiosorex crawfordi</i>	R
ORDER: LAGOMORPHA		
Black-tailed jack rabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	C
Desert cottontail	<i>Syvilagus audubonli</i>	C
ORDER: RENTENTIA		
Antelope ground squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus leucurus</i>	C
Gunnison's prairie dog	<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	C
Ord's kangaroo rat	<i>Dypodomys ordi</i>	C
Banner-tailed kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys spectabilis</i>	C
Porcupine	<i>Erithizon dorsatum</i>	C
Colorado chipmunk	<i>Neotamias quadrivittatus</i>	U
White-throated wood rat	<i>Neotoma albigula</i>	C
Bushy-tailed wood rat	<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>	U
Stephen's wood rat	<i>Neotoma stephensi</i>	U
N. grasshopper mouse	<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	C
Plains pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus flavescens</i>	U
Silky pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus flavus</i>	C
Brush mouse	<i>Peromyscus boylii</i>	U
Canyon mouse	<i>Peromyscus crinitus</i>	C
Deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	A
Pinyon mouse	<i>Peromyscus truei</i>	C
Western harvest mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys magalotis</i>	U
Spotted ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilis spilosoma</i>	R
Rock squirrel	<i>Spermophilis variegatus</i>	R
Botta's pocket gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	C

Legend

A = Abundant C = Common
R = Rare U = Uncommon



Pallid Bat



Fringed Myotis



Big Brown Bat

Canyon Winged Friends

Chaco hosts a myriad of furry flying mammals. The fringed and California myotis, Pallid bat, Big brown bat, and Western Pipistrelle are some of the most commonly seen bats in the canyon. No need to worry or fear the creatures, since their diet consists mainly of insects. The canyon walls serve as home to the host of bats found in Chaco. If you stay overnight, you might see them flying around at dusk or early evening. Ongoing studies continue to identify the flying mammals. Two different means of identification are used including the netting and release of the creatures or the Anabat system which analyses the ultrasonic calls of bats to identify the species.

Answers: A. Antelope Ground Squirrel B. Kangaroo Rat C. Black-Tailed Jack Rabbit

(for reverse side)