

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Long Island
*National Wildlife
Refuge Complex*

Mammals





This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Refuge System.



T. Kman

Eastern chipmunk

Welcome!

Enjoy the opportunities to see mammals and their signs at the Long Island NWR Complex! Most mammals native to Long Island can be found at one of the refuge units of the complex.

National Wildlife Refuges focus on endangered species, migratory birds, marine mammals, anadromous fish and their management. However, all wildlife—including mammals—benefit from habitat protection and management programs.



R.W. Parris

Possum

The Diversity of Mammals

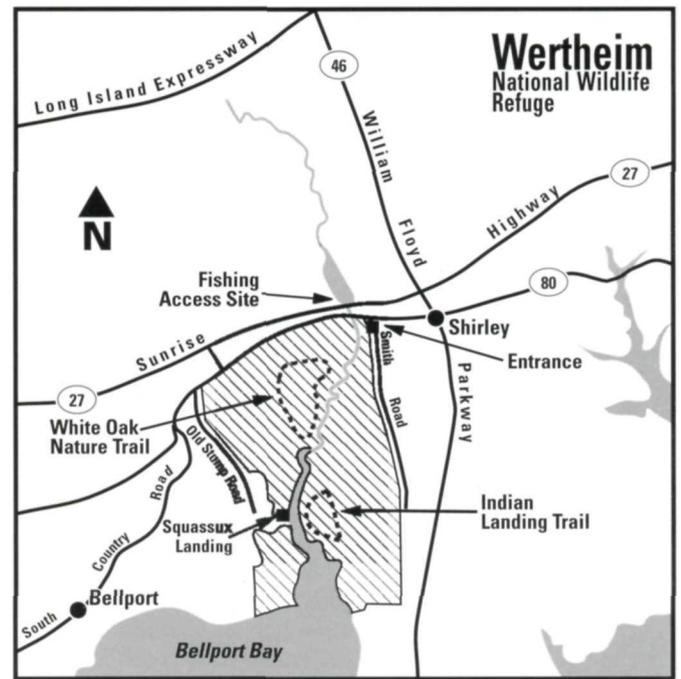
Those hairy, warm-blooded, milk-producing animals you've seen all your life are mammals. From bats to deer, mammals vary greatly in size, how they move around and in the significant roles they play in nature. The smallest mammal on Long Island—the masked shrew—weighs only 1/10 of an ounce, the same as a large paperclip! Our largest terrestrial mammal—the white-tailed deer—can weigh up to 250 pounds.

There are mammals that eat only meat (carnivores), only plants (herbivores) and those that eat both (omnivores). The long-tail weasel, one of the carnivores of Long Island, eats small mammals and birds. Though you may think foxes are strictly carnivores, they also eat nuts and berries to round out their diets.

From mammals that glide from tree to tree (flying squirrels), fly (bats), swim (seals) and burrow in tunnels (moles) to those that tread on the ground (rabbits), Long Island's National Wildlife Refuges have excellent habitat for all sorts of mammals!

How to View Mammals

- Be patient and still
- Use binoculars
- Visit early in the morning or late in the day
- Look for animal footprints
- Watch for movement
- Listen for calls



Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

Wertheim offers 2,550 acres of protected land including oak-pine forest, grassland and wetlands which support a diversity of wildlife and create a haven for numerous species of Long Island's mammals.

Enjoy the scenery and watch for wildlife while hiking along the trails or canoeing down the Carmans River. As you go, look for deer and fox tracks in the sand, eastern mole tunnels cutting across the trail, muskrat houses in the wetlands or gray squirrel nests up in the trees. Flying squirrels use the forest habitat at Wertheim, nesting in tree cavities and gliding from tree to tree mainly at night.



USFWS

Eastern cottontail

Directions

From Long Island Expressway (I-495), Exit 68S, or Sunrise Hwy. (Hwy. 27), Exit 58S to William Floyd Pkwy. (CR 46S). Right/West onto Montauk Hwy. (CR 80W). Left/South onto Smith Rd. for ¼ mile. Entrance on the right. Refuge hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge

Once a grand garden estate, Target Rock is now an 80-acre mix of mature oak forest, rocky beach, grassland and vernal pond habitats. The combination of beach and uplands brings a unique assortment of mammals to the Refuge.

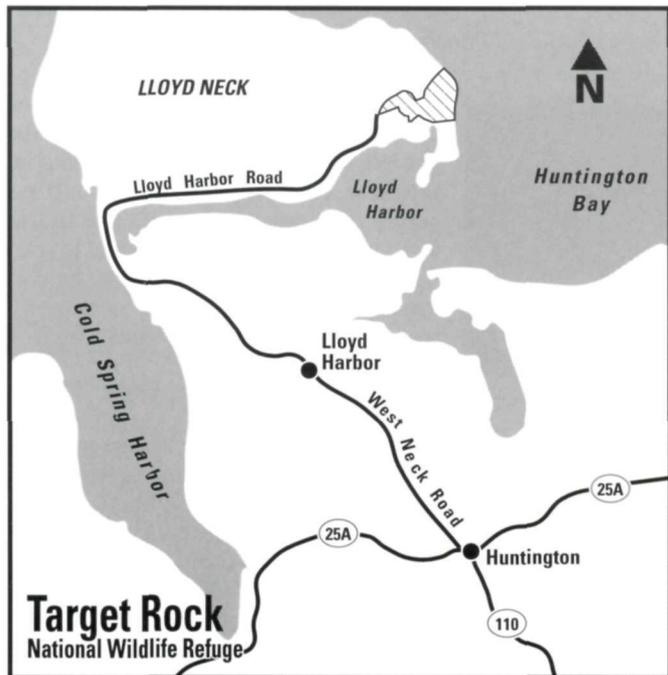
You may see eastern cottontail along the trail or at the edge of a patch of vines and briar. Eastern chipmunk and gray squirrel often scurry through the forest, while you may find raccoon and red fox tracks on the beach or near the pond. Refuge visitors may also see harbor seals hauling out to sun themselves on the beach or on the rocks in the bay!



Harbor seal

Directions

From the Long Island Expressway (I-495), take Rte. 110N to Huntington. Left/West on Rte. 25A (Main St.). Right/North onto West Neck Rd. to Lloyd Harbor Rd. Straight onto Target Rock Rd. Entrance is on the right. Refuge hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. An entrance fee is charged.



Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge

This 187-acre refuge has a unique mix of habitats including a maritime oak forest, pioneer hardwoods, red maple, cedars, grasslands, wetlands and bay beach. Many of Long Island's mammals inhabit Morton. Watch quietly and you will likely see several species!



R.W. Parris

White-tailed deer

Eastern chipmunks and gray squirrels are likely to greet you on the trail, while you may catch a glimpse of a white-tailed deer along a forest edge or by the beach. Meadow jumping mice, meadow voles and eastern cottontails use the grasslands. Look closely around the pond; a mink or raccoon could have left its tracks!

Directions

Take Sunrise Hwy. (27E). Left/North onto North Sea Rd. (CR 38) for North Sea. Right onto Noyack Rd. for 5 miles. Entrance is on the left. Refuge hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. An entrance fee is charged.

Viewing Mammals

Viewing mammals takes patience and knowing what to look for. Although you may not actually see a mammal on your visit, there are signs to let you know they were there. Look closely; perhaps you'll spot some evidence that a mammal has passed through before you!

MAMMAL CHECKLIST

Legend

-  easy to see  easy to see sign*
-  difficult to see  difficult to see sign*

* Sign includes tracks, tunnels, burrows, nests, houses and browsed/grazed vegetation.

Pouched Mammals

___ Opossum 

Insectivores

___ Eastern mole 

___ Masked shrew

___ Short-tailed shrew

___ Star-nosed mole

Bats

___ Big brown bat 

___ Eastern pipistrelle

___ Hoary bat

___ Keen's myotis

___ Little brown myotis

___ Red bat

___ Silver-haired bat

Rabbits & Hares

___ Eastern cottontail 

___ New England cottontail

Rodents

___ Eastern chipmunk 

___ Gray squirrel

___ House mouse

___ Meadow jumping mouse

___ Meadow vole

___ Muskrat

___ Norway rat

___ Southern flying squirrel

___ White-footed mouse

___ Woodchuck

___ Woodland vole

Dolphins & Whales

___ Bottle-nosed dolphin 

___ Harbor porpoise

Canids

___ Gray fox 

___ Red fox

Raccoons

___ Raccoon 

Weasels & Otters

___ Ermine 

___ Longtail weasel

___ Mink

___ River otter

___ Striped skunk

Seals

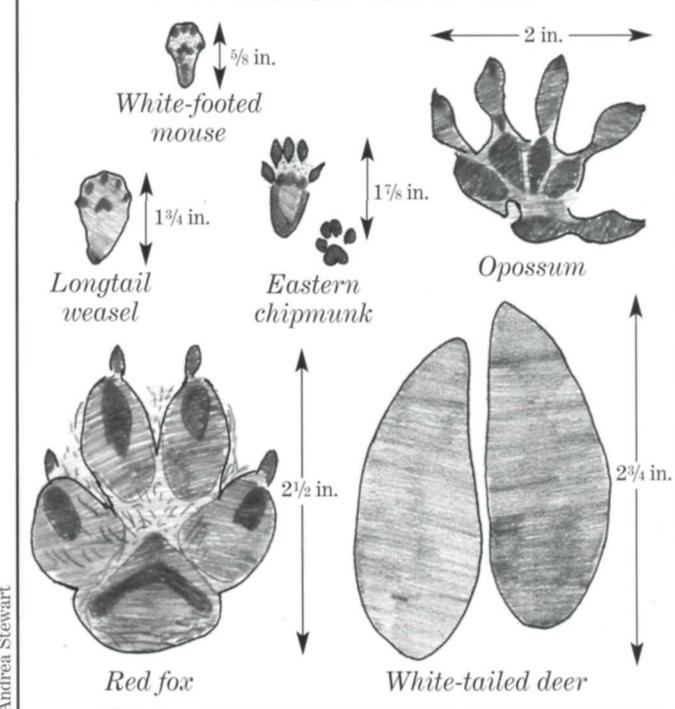
___ Gray seal 

___ Harbor seal

Hoofed Mammals

___ White-tailed deer 

Who's Been Here? Look for Tracks!



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<http://www.fws.gov>

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