



Mammals



Death Valley National Park

Death Valley National Park protects over 3 million acres of Mojave Desert famous as the hottest, driest and lowest place in the nation. Despite those extremes, it is

home to a diverse amount of wildlife species: 56 mammals, 36 reptiles, 5 amphibians, 6 fish, and nearly 400 bird species have been found in the park.

This list represents observation and studies reported primarily since 1933.

Shrews

Desert Shrew

Notiosorex crawfordi

Found in sagebrush; sometimes in masses of vegetation at the base of desert plants.

Bats

Fringed Myotis

Myotis thysanodes

Found in upper creosote bush desert to subalpine conifer forest.

California Myotis

Myotis californicus

One of the most common bats at lower elevations; forages within 15 feet from ground in early evening.

Small-footed Myotis

Myotis leibii

Forages in early evening; frequently drinks after emerging; feeds low over brush; roosts in caves.

Long-legged Myotis

Myotis volans

Most often found in conifer forests; rapid, direct flier; hunts at tree-tops.

Yuma Myotis

Myotis yumanensis

Forages just after sunset over water.

Silver-haired Bat

Lasionycteris noctivagans

Found around water in forested areas; flies slow with frequent short glides.

Western Pipistrelle

Pipistrellus hesperus

Most commonly seen bat in park; forages before sunset to after sunrise; slow, fluttery flight; in rocky canyons.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Corynorhinus townsendii

All elevations; roosts in abandoned mines; most disturbance-sensitive bat species in western U.S.

Red Bat

Lasiurus blossevillii

Leaves roost at deep dusk; usually feed in pairs; flight steady and rapid; wooded areas.

Hoary Bat

Lasiurus cinereus

Largest bat in park; found in wooded areas; swift, direct flight; emerges late in evening, occasionally on warm winter afternoons.

Spotted Bat

Euderma maculatum

Rarely seen, but has distinctive auditory echolocation call.

Pallid Bat

Antrozous pallidus

Late flier; forages near ground, often lands to pick up scorpions and other insects; slow wing-beats.

Mexican Free-tailed Bat

Tadarida brasiliensis

Flies high and fast; often roosts in large colonies.

Big Free-tailed Bat

Nyctinomops macrotis

Leaves roost late dusk; rare in U.S.

Ringtail Family

Ringtail

Bassariscus astutus

Nocturnal and secretive; rocky terrain in arid brush and wooded areas.

Weasel Family

Badger

Taxidea taxus

Mostly nocturnal, but often active in early morning; low desert into mountains; digs burrows

Spotted Skunk

Spilogale putorius

Nocturnal; found in brushy areas and among boulders in mountains.

Canines

Coyote

Canis latrans

Common throughout park; often heard calling at night or begging along roadsides (do not feed wild animals!)

Kit Fox

Vulpes macrotis

Nocturnal; in day stays in burrow; prefers open, level, sandy ground in low desert; often curious

Gray Fox

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Mostly nocturnal; uncommon in park.

Cats

Mountain Lion

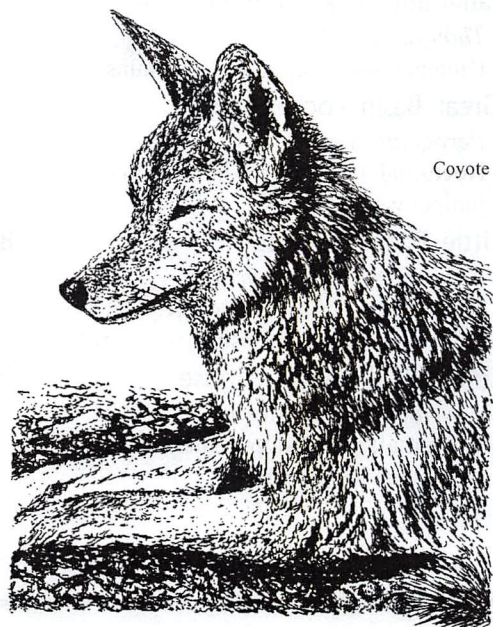
Puma concolor

Mostly nocturnal and secretive; found primarily where there are deer, their main prey; surrounding mountains.

Bobcat

Lynx rufus

Mostly nocturnal; common in park but secretive and rarely seen.



Coyote

Rodents

Panamint Chipmunk

Tamias panamintinus
Colorful squirrel; piñon-juniper woodlands of Panamint and Grapevine Mountains; active nearly year-round.

White-tailed Antelope Squirrel

Ammospermophilus leucurus
Most common squirrel in park; from valley floor to over 6000 feet; adapted to hot weather, non-hibernating.

California Ground Squirrel

Spermophilus beecheyi
Solitary or in small colonies; Hunter Mountain area of Cottonwood Mountains.

Round-tailed Ground Squirrel

Spermophilus tereticaudus
Common in low desert, mesquite thickets; may climb into bushes to escape heat; non-hibernating

Mojave Ground Squirrel

Spermophilus mohavensis
Endemic to Mojave Desert; low to mid-elevations; mainly solitary; burrow lacks mound of excavated dirt; hibernates more than half of year. A threatened species in California.

Botta's Pocket Gopher

Thomomys bottae
Pocket gophers rarely above ground for long; mainly nocturnal on surface; active year-round; below 5000 feet.

Pygmy Pocket Gopher

Thomomys umbrinus oreocus
Leave fan-shaped mounds of dirt; higher elevations up to 10,000 feet on surrounding mountains.

Panamint Pocket Gopher

Thomomys umbrinus scapterus
Panamint and Grapevine Mountains.

Great Basin Pocket Mouse

Perognathus parvus
Nocturnal; inactive in winter; piñon-juniper woodlands.

Little Pocket Mouse

Perognathus longimembris
Nocturnal; likes areas of desert pavement; creosote bush to sagebrush

Long-tailed Pocket Mouse

Chaetodipus formosus mohavensis
Nocturnal; rocky slopes and canyons; Grapevine Mountains

Desert Pocket Mouse

Chaetodipus penicillatus
Nocturnal; open, sandy valley floor.

Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rat

Dipodomys microps
Nocturnal; mid-elevation desert to sagebrush; sandy soil or rocky slopes with sparse vegetation.

Panamint Kangaroo Rat

Dipodomys panamintinus
Nocturnal; mountains 6000 to 7000 feet; piñon-juniper to sagebrush.

Merriam's Kangaroo Rat

Dipodomys merriami
Nocturnal; smallest of the kangaroo rats; sandy soil on the valley floor.

Desert Kangaroo Rat

Dipodomys deserti
Nocturnal; largest kangaroo rat in park; white tip on tail; valley floor, especially around mesquite.

Western Harvest Mouse

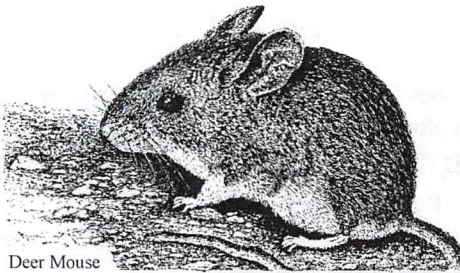
Reithrodontomys megalotis
Dense vegetation near water; Salt Creek, Furnace Creek, Wildrose.

Cactus Mouse

Peromyscus eremicus
Nocturnal; low desert to mountains; rocky outcrops.

Canyon Mouse

Peromyscus crinitus
Nocturnal; rocky areas in canyons and mountains.



Deer Mouse

Deer Mouse

Peromyscus maniculatus
Nocturnal; common throughout park

Brush Mouse

Peromyscus boylii
Nocturnal; good climber; brushy areas in mountains.

Pi on Mouse

Peromyscus truei
Nocturnal; rocky areas in piñon-juniper woodlands.

Southern Grasshopper Mouse

Onychomys torridus
Throughout park below 5500 feet; carnivorous; call a shrill whistle.

Desert Woodrat

Neotoma lepida
Nocturnal; common throughout park; build large "houses" of debris on ground or along cliffs.

Bushy-tailed Woodrat

Neotoma cinerea
Nocturnal; piñon-juniper; gather debris in rock crevices or under logs.

House Mouse

Mus musculus
In and around human dwellings.

Porcupine

Erethizon dorsatum
Mostly nocturnal; among trees in Mountains.

Rabbits & Hares

Mountain Cottontail

Sylvilagus nuttalli
Sagebrush to woodlands in surrounding mountains.

Desert Cottontail

Sylvilagus audobonii
Mesquite thickets on valley floor; watered areas; most active late afternoon through the night.

Black-tailed Jackrabbit

Lepus californicus
Valley floor to mountains; most active early evening through early morning.

Hoofed Mammals

Mule Deer

Odocoileus hemionus
In Panamint, Cottonwood and Grapevine Mountains; Hunter Mountain area.

Desert Bighorn Sheep

Ovis canadensis nelsoni
Surrounding mountains, especially inaccessible ridges and canyons, usually near water.

Burro

Equus assinus
Introduced in 1880s; mountains and high desert; active removal program by NPS.

Horse

Equus caballus
Introduced; active removal program by NPS.