

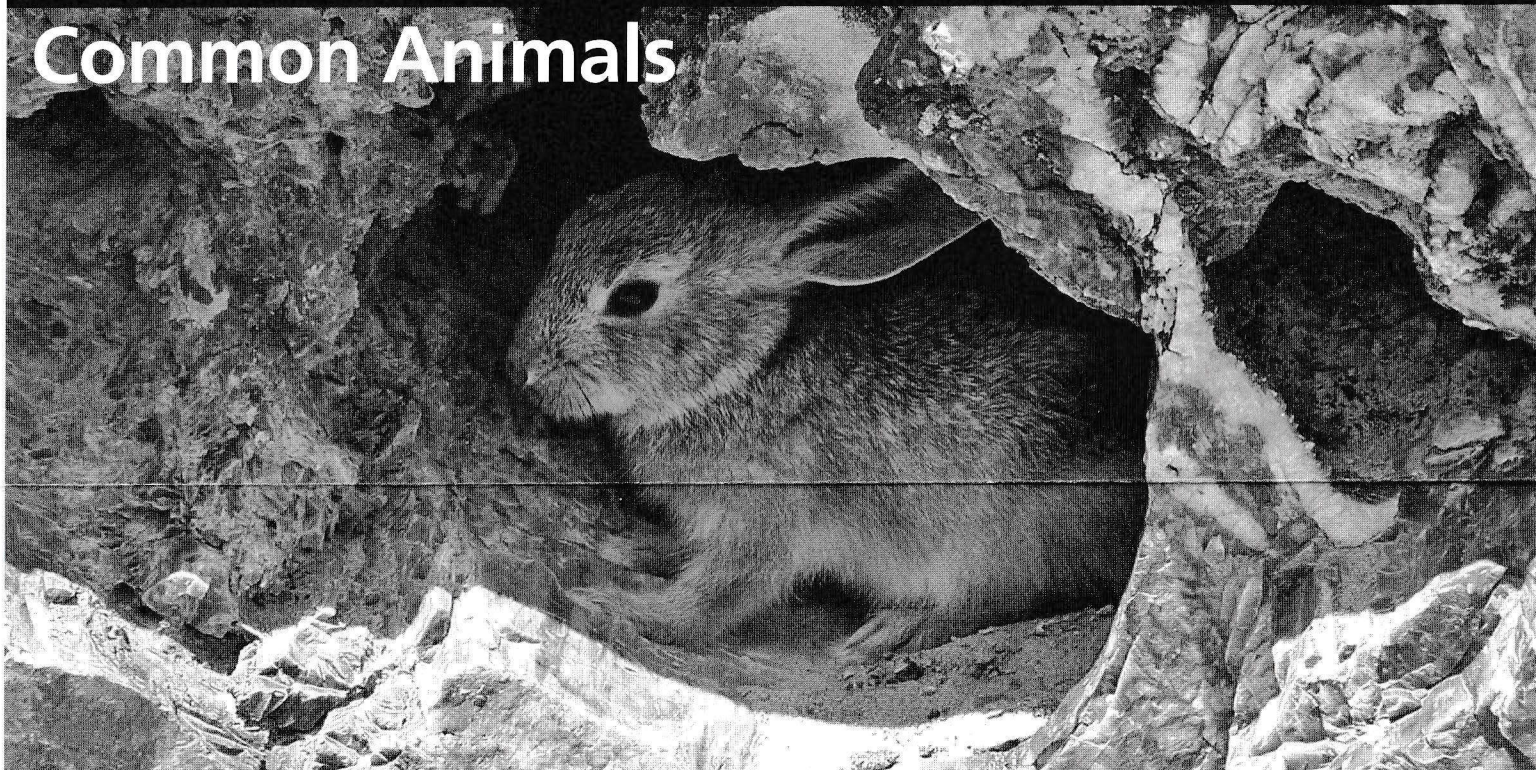
# Petrified Forest

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Petrified Forest National Park  
Arizona

## Common Animals



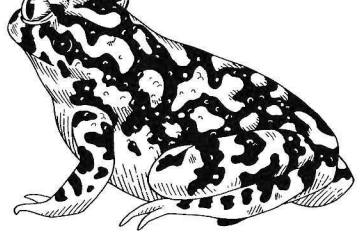
Although Petrified Forest is best known for its fossil clues to an ancient environment, it is also a living Park. Despite its seemingly barren appearance, Petrified Forest National Park supports hundreds of animal species. In this often demanding environment, animals have adapted many behavioral and physical means of survival. For example, black-tailed jackrabbits very long ears are radiators, helping to cool the animal during the heat of summer. Other creatures only come out in the relative cool of morning and evening. Some animals migrate or hibernate to escape the cold of winter. Keep your eyes open and watch for signs of the many animal species, large and small, that make Petrified Forest their home. (Bird information is available in the park Bird Checklist.)

### Amphibians

Can you imagine living underground for nine months of the year and not eating, drinking, or defecating? An emerging group of animals

*Ambystoma tigrinum* Tiger Salamander  
*Anaxyrus (Bufo) cognatus* Great Plains Toad  
*Anaxyrus Bufo punctatus* Red-spotted Toad

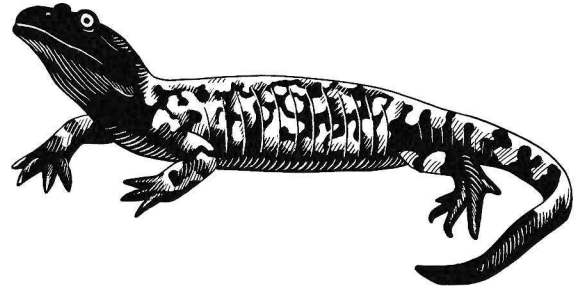




Couch's spadefoot

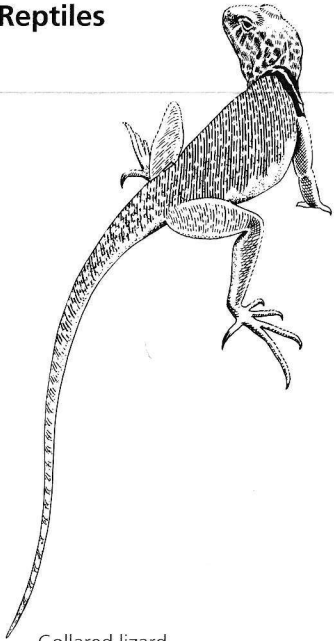
of absorbing. An amazing group of animals do just that—amphibians. It's hard to imagine that in this dry region animals that require consistent moisture could thrive. Permeable skin allows amphibians to live in Petrified Forest. Amphibians do not drink; instead, they absorb water through their skins. Spadefoot toads, residents of the park, absorb water from the soil in which they hibernate. Although permeable skin allows for water absorption, it provides little barrier to evaporation. This causes amphibians' water balance to be in constant flux. Evaporative water loss also results in loss of body temperature. This is why you often see amphibians on warm pavement in the evening. It is not an easy life for amphibians in this dry grassland.

*Anaxyrus* *Bufo* *punctatus* Red Spotted Toad  
*Anaxyrus couchii* Couch's Spadefoot  
*Spea multiplicata* Mexican Spadefoot (formerly *Scaphiopus multiplicata*)  
*Spea bombifrons* Plains Spadefoot



Tiger salamander

## Reptiles



Collared lizard

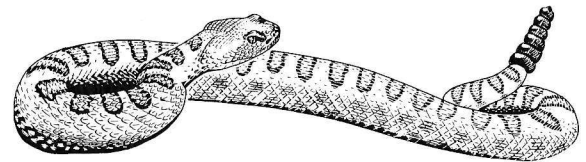
Well adapted to the often dry environment of the region, reptiles play an important part in maintaining the health of the ecosystem. Over sixteen varieties of lizards and snakes make Petrified Forest their home. Reptiles occupy a variety of habitats ranging from grassland to rocky slopes. They consume large quantities of insects, spiders, scorpions, other reptiles and small mammals thereby preventing infestations of any single species. Respecting the entire reptile community helps to preserve this vital link.

### Snakes

*Arizona elegans* Glossy Snake  
*Crotalus viridis viridis* Prairie (Hopi) rattlesnake  
*Hypsiglena torquata* Nightsnake  
*Lampropeltis getula* Common Kingsnake  
*Lampropeltis triangulum* Milksnake  
*Masticophis taeniatus* Striped Whipsnake  
*Pituophis catenifer* Gophersnake  
*Thamnophis cyrtopsis* Black-necked Gartersnake

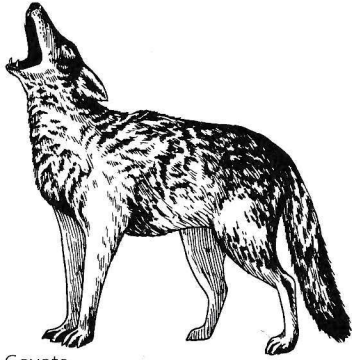
### Lizards

*Aspidoscelis pai* Pai Striped Whiptail (formerly *A. inornatus* Little striped whiptail)  
*Aspidoscelis neomexicana* New Mexico Whiptail  
*Aspidoscelis velox* Plateau Striped Whiptail  
*Crotaphytus collaris* Eastern Collared Lizard  
*Holbrookia maculata* Common Lesser Earless Lizard  
*Phrynosoma hernandesi* Greater Short-horned Lizard (formerly *P. douglasii* Short-horned lizard)  
*Sceloporus graciosus* Sagebrush Lizard  
*Sceloporus tristichus* Plateau Lizard (Formerly *S. undulatus* Eastern fence lizard)  
*Uta stansburiana* Common Side-blotched Lizard



Hopi rattlesnake

## Mammals



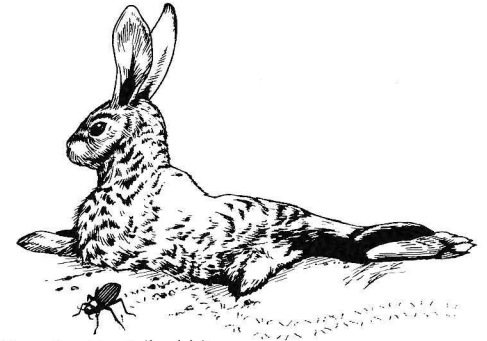
Coyote

Mammals are a diverse group of animals, ranging from the delicate white-footed mouse to the elegant mule deer. Mammals have fur or hair, produce milk for their offspring, and are warm-blooded. In the often extreme climate of the plateau country, mammals use such survival strategies as hiding in

*Canis latrans*  
*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*  
*Vulpes velox*  
*Lynx rufus (Felis rufus)*  
*Odocoileus hemionus*  
*Antilocapra americana*  
*Bassariscus astutus*  
*Procyon lotor*  
*Taxidea taxus*  
*Mephitis mephitis*  
*Spilogale gracilis*  
*Lepus californicus*  
*Sylvilagus audubonii*  
*Notiosorex crawfordi*  
*Antrozous pallidus*  
*Corynorhinus townsendii*  
*Myotis californicus*  
*Myotis thysanodes*  
*Myotis yumanensis*  
*Pipistrellus hesperus*  
*Erethizon dorsatum*  
*Cynomys gunnisoni*  
*Ammospermophilus leucurus*  
*Spermophilus pilosoma*  
*Spermophilus variegatus*  
*Thomomys bottae*  
*Neotoma albigula*  
*Neotoma cinerea*  
*Neotoma mexicana*  
*Neotoma stephensi*  
*Dipodomys ordii*  
*Perognathus flavus*  
*Onychomys leucogaster*

Coyote  
 Gray fox  
 Swift fox  
 Bobcat  
 Mule deer  
 Pronghorn  
 Ringtail  
 Raccoon  
 Badger  
 Striped skunk  
 Western spotted skunk  
 Black-tailed jackrabbit  
 Desert cottontail  
 Desert shrew  
 Pallid bat  
 Townsend's big-eared bat  
 California myotis  
 Fringed myotis  
 Yuma myotis  
 Western pipistrelle  
 Porcupine  
 Gunnison's prairie  
 White-tailed antelope ground squirrel  
 Spotted ground squirrel  
 Rock squirrel  
 Botta's pocket gopher  
 White-throated woodrat  
 Bushy-tailed woodrat  
 Mexican woodrat  
 Stephens' woodrat  
 Ord's kangaroo rat  
 Silky pocket mouse  
 Northern grasshopper mouse

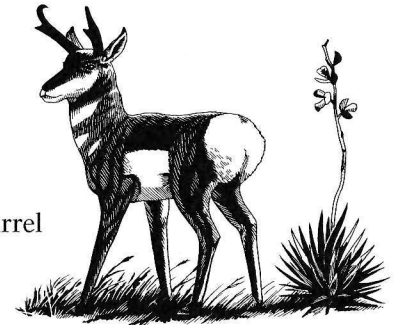
their burrows or migration as well as physiological adaptations like hollow hairs for insulation. Many of the mammals found in Petrified Forest National Park are rodents, a main stay prey for many predators of the region. Early morning is the best time to view mammals while in the park.



Desert cottontail rabbit



Pallid Bat



American pronghorn



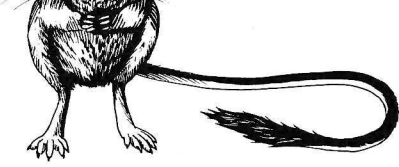




White-tailed antelope ground squirrel

*Peromyscus boylii*  
*Peromyscus crinitis*  
*Peromyscus leucopus*  
*Peromyscus maniculatus*  
*Peromyscus truei*  
*Reithrodontomys megalotis*  
*Mus musculus*

Brush mouse  
 Canyon mouse  
 White-footed mouse  
 Deer mouse  
 Pinon mouse  
 Western harvest mouse  
 House mouse



Ord's kangaroo rat

## Invertebrates

Invertebrates include far more animals that can be listed here. Arthropods—one of the most diverse groups of creatures in the world—consist of such animals as spiders, crustaceans, and insects. Please remember that even these

“bugs” have their place in the environment, often one of great importance. Invertebrates enrich the soil, decompose, and control pests. This is just a tiny sample of the many invertebrates in the park.

### Insects

Tarantula hawks *Pepsis* and *Hemipepsis* spp.  
 Praying mantids (Order Mantodea)  
 Bumblebee *Bombus sonorous*  
 Velvet ant *Dasymutilla* spp.  
 Black witch moth *Ascalapha odorata*  
 Pipevine swallowtail butterfly *Battus philenor*  
 White-lined sphinx moth *Hyles lineata*  
 Painted lady butterfly *Vanessa cardui*  
 Pinacate beetle *Eleodes* spp.  
 Stick Insect *Parabacillus* spp.

### Arachnids

Tarantula, *Aphonopelma* spp.  
 Wolf spider *Lycosa* spp.  
 Western black widow *Latrodectus hesperus*  
 Arizona bark scorpion *Centruroides exilicauda*  
 Giant hairy scorpion *Hadrurus arizonensis*  
 Solpugid, windscorpions *Eremobates* spp.

### Crustaceans

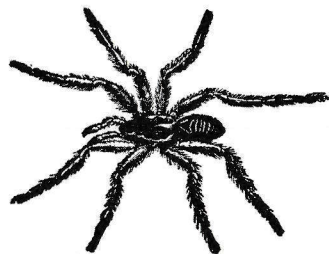
Pillbug (Isopod)

### Myriapods

Desert Millipede *Orthoporus ornatus*  
 Giant desert centipede *Scolopendra heros*  
 House centipede *Scutigera coleoptrata*



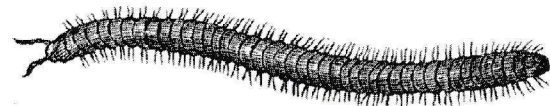
White-lined sphinx moth



Tarantula



Pillbug



Millipede

## Taking Care of Wildlife

Only a fraction of animals found in the park are listed in this publication. Birds are not included here, having their own checklist.

National parks create oases of protection for many species of animals. Do not approach, feed, or harass any wildlife in Petrified Forest or any other national park area.

