

# MAMMAL SPECIES SEEN AT SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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*[References](#) at end. Text written by staff.*

*Photos by Roy Barnes, Emma Olsen and Dr. John Weser.*

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## BAILEY'S POCKET MOUSE (CHAETODIPUS BAILEYI)

**Scientific Name:** *Chaetodipus baileyi*

**Temporal Activity:** They are nocturnal and they do not hibernate. This mouse is active all year, although its winter activity may be reduced.

**Diet:** They mostly eat seeds. They use their "pockets," fur-lined external cheek pouches, to bring seeds to their nests where they store them for leaner times.

**Predators:** Owls, coyotes, badgers, and snakes

**Breeding:** Pregnancy peaks in spring and late summer-fall; drought may inhibit reproduction. Litter size averages 3-4 in southeastern Arizona. Nests are in underground burrows in sparsely vegetated flats and rocky slopes.

**Notes:** Bailey's Pocket Mouse is the only Sonoran desert rodent able to eat jojoba seeds which are toxic to most mammals. Also, because the rodents carry their seeds in their "pockets" and not in their mouth, the seeds do not absorb their body water. Therefore, the mice can go for a long time without water.

**Photo:** To be added.

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## BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT (LEPUS CALIFORNICUS)

**Scientific Name:** *Lepus californicus*

**Temporal Activity:** Active throughout the year, mainly nocturnal and crepuscular.

**Diet:** Eats grasses, forbs, crops, and hay in the summer. In the winter eats buds, bark, and leaves.

**Predators:** Snakes, coyotes, owls, and other raptors.

**Breeding:** May breed from late winter to late summer. Females have 1-4 litters of 1-8 young.

**Notes:** Will zigzag rapidly to escape predation. Has good eyesight, hearing, and reproduce at very high rates to make up for high predation losses.

**Photo:** To be added.

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## COTTON RAT (SIGMODON HISPIDUS)

**Scientific Name:** *Sigmodon hispidus*

**Temporal Activity:** Circadian - active day and night. They do not hibernate.

**Diet:** Mainly herbivorous, eats stems, leaves, nuts, seeds, as well as insects and small vertebrates.

**Predators:** Various carnivores and raptors.

**Breeding:** Breeds throughout the year, with peak activity in spring and fall. Gestation lasts 27 days. Litter size averages about 5-7 with several litters a year.

**Notes:** They are sexually mature in 2-3 months, but hardly any live to 6 months.

**Photo:** To be added.

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## COYOTE (CANIS LATRANS)



**Scientific Name:** *Canis latrans*

**Temporal Activity:** Crepuscular and nocturnal. They do not hibernate.

**Diet:** Mainly carrion, small vertebrates and invertebrates. They occasionally eat vegetation.

**Predation:** Coyotes are very secretive. They keep their young in the den while they are young so they are not killed by wolves or mountain lions. Their most dangerous predators are humans who hunt the animal for sport and pelt.

**Breeding:** They mate in late winter. Gestation lasts 60-65 days. Litter size averages 4-7. Both

parents tend young in their dens until they are 8-10 weeks old. Dens are burrows in the ground with the opening often oriented toward the south. They may also be above ground, in overhanging branches or at the base of a tree, or under buildings.

**Notes:** Free-ranging coyotes have been captured for research purposes with steel leg-hold traps, aerial darting, aerial net-gunning, manual capture from helicopters, and manual capture from snowmobiles.

**Photo:** Taken at Brown's Ranch on May 16, 2003.

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## DESERT COTTONTAIL (SYLVILAGUS AUDUBONII)



**Scientific Name:** *Sylvilagus audubonii*

**Temporal Activity:** Active throughout the year, mainly crepuscular, but may be seen any time during the day or night.

**Diet:** Eats grasses, leafy plants, fruits and seeds. Feeds under brush cover during the day and may feed in open areas at night.

**Predators:** Coyotes, owls, snakes, and other raptors.

**Breeding:** Breeds throughout the year, produces several litters of 1-5 young. The mother will make a shallow nest, line it with grasses and fur, and then cover her babies with grasses and fur.

**Notes:** Uses burrows of other animals when available, stays within a 400-yard home range.

**Photo:** Taken at the Riparian Preserve at the Gilbert Water Ranch on November 19, 2006.

**Riparian Preserve at Gilbert Water Ranch:**



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## DOG (CANIS LUPUS FAMILIARIS)

**Scientific Name:** *Canis lupus familiaris*

**Temporal Activity:** Active throughout the day and night, tends to follow the schedule of its owner, naps often. Active year-round.

**Diet:** Eats grains and meats.

**Predators:** Humans, raptors, coyotes.

**Breeding:** May produce litters several times a year.

**Notes:** Also known as man's best friend. Many of the dogs on SCC campus are stray.

**Photo:** To be added.

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## HARRIS'S ANTELOPE SQUIRREL (AMMOSPERMOPHILUS HARRISII)

**Scientific Name:** *Ammospermophilus harrisi*

**Temporal Activity:** Active year-round and diurnal.

**Diet:** Eats green vegetation, fruits of cholla, prickly pear and barrel cacti, seeds, mesquite beans, insects and sometimes mice.

**Predators:** Coyotes and birds of prey (raptors).

**Breeding:** Breeds in February or March and December or January. Litter size is 6-7.

**Notes:** Digs burrows that are 3ft. deep and will hold its tail over its head to shade itself from the heat.

**Photo:** To be added.

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## HOARY BAT (LASIURUS CINEREUS)

**Scientific Name:** *Lasiurus cinereus*

**Temporal Activity:** Nocturnal. Some hibernate during the winter in the north.

**Diet:** Feeds on large moths, and sometimes other insects.

**Predators:** Various birds and snakes

**Breeding:** Occurs between September-November. Gestation lasts 90 days. Litter size is 1-4, with one litter per year. Mother-young groups often change roosts.

**Notes:** Migration takes place in waves, with large numbers passing through an area on a few nights in spring and fall.

**Photo:** To be added.

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## HOUSE CAT (FELIS CATUS)



**Scientific Name:** *Felis catus*

**Temporal Activity:** Tends to follow the schedule of its owner; may be active any time of the day or night, naps often. Active year-round.

**Diet:** Carnivorous: eats fish and small birds.

**Predators:** Dogs, coyotes, humans, and raptors.

**Breeding:** May produce several litters several times a year.

**Notes:** Will produce a "meow" like sound if breeding or hungry. Many of the cats on SCC campus are stray.

**Photo:** Taken at Scottsdale Community College on March 9, 2007.

**Scottsdale Community College:**



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## HOUSE MOUSE (MUS MUSCULUS)

**Scientific Name:** *Mus musculus*

**Temporal Activity:** Primarily nocturnal, though also diurnal during population peaks

**Diet:** Feed on plant matter, but they will also accept meat and dairy products. They require little water.

**Predators:** Rats, cats, foxes, ferrets, snakes, and various raptors.

**Breeding:** Breeds throughout the year in mild indoor conditions. Gestation lasts 19-21 days. Produces many litters of 3-12 young per year.

**Notes:** These mice will eat their own feces to acquire nutrients produced by bacteria in their guts.

**Photo:** To be added.

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## LITTLE BROWN BAT (MYOTIS LUCIFUGUS)



**Scientific Name:** *Myotis lucifugus*

**Temporal Activity:** Nocturnal. Hibernates September-October to April-May.

**Diet:** Consumes flying insects, especially mosquitoes, midges, moths, various hoppers, smaller beetles and sometimes spiders.

**Predators:** Domestic cats, owls, snakes, raccoons

**Breeding:** Mates in September - October. Gestation lasts 50-60 days. Gives birth to one litter of one young in late spring - early summer. Uses caves, hollow trees and has adapted to use man-made structures.

**Notes:** In the northeast, may migrate hundreds of miles between winter and summer habitats; in the west, believed to hibernate near their summer range.

**Photo:** Photo taken on October 23, 2006 at Brown's Ranch.

**Brown's Ranch:**



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## ROCK SQUIRREL (*CITELLUS VARIEGATES*)



**Scientific Name:** *Citellus variegates*

**Temporal Activity:** Dormant during winter months, becomes active during spring. Active in the morning.

**Diet:** Eats seeds, mesquite beans and buds, insects, eggs, birds, carrion, and fruits.

**Predators:** Hawks, roadrunners, coyotes, and snakes.

**Breeding:** Mates in early spring, young are born in March with the possibility of a second litter in August or September.

**Notes:** Most common in boulder piles, rocky outcrops, or canyon walls. They give a whistle-like warning sound when predators are near.

**Photo:** Photo taken at Coon Bluff on September 9, 2003.

### Coon Bluff:



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## STRIPED SKUNK (MEPHITIS MEPHITIS)



**Scientific Name:** *Mephitis mephitis*

**Temporal Activity:** Crepuscular, Nocturnal. Undergo periods of inactivity from November until March.

**Diet:** Varied diet of plant/animal foods (insects, small mammals, eggs, carrion, fruit, etc.). Half of summer diet is insects.

**Predators:** Because of their excellent defense system they are rarely preyed on by mammals. They are preyed on by Great Horned Owls, which have almost no sense of smell, human beings and automobiles. Skunks spray a noxious sent that will immediately stop a predator.

**Breeding:** February to late March. Gestation lasts 62-68 days. Litter of 2-10 is born with one litter per

year. They are in underground burrows usually made by other animals.

**Notes:** Dens usually consist of six females and their young. One male sometimes occupies a den with females, but usually lives alone in its own den. The skunk has aposomatic coloration that serves to warn potential predators of their noxious spray.

**Photo:** Taken at Scottsdale Community College on September 25, 2007.

**Scottsdale Community College:**



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## VALLEY POCKET GOPHER (THOMOMYS BOTTAE ROBUSTUS)



**Scientific Name:** *Thomomys bottae robustus*

**Temporal Activity:** Mostly diurnal. They are active at all times during the year and do not hibernate.

**Diet:** Eat roots, bulbs, tubers and occasionally above ground plant parts.

**Predators:** Owls, badgers, coyotes and foxes

**Breeding:** They produce only one litter per year with a gestation period of 19 days. The litter size ranges from 3-7. They live in burrows in the ground.

**Notes:** Pocket gophers have large

stomachs and the amount of food that can be contained in the digestive tract at one time can exceed 21% of the animal's total weight.

**Photo:** Taken at Scottsdale Community College on April 3, 2008.

**Scottsdale Community College:**



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## REFERENCES

Mammal information was obtained from the following sources:

- NatureServe Explorer ([website](#))
- Animal Diversity Web at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology ([website](#))

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