

Mammals of the Jordan River

compiled by Dan Potts, local naturalist, 2011

SHREWS (SORICIDAE)

Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	common
Preble's Shrew	<i>Sorex preblei</i>	uncommon
Vagrant Shrew	<i>Sorex vagrans</i>	common

EVENING BATS (VESPERTILIONIDAE)

Little brown bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	common
California bat	<i>Myotis californicus stephensi</i>	uncommon
Fringed bat	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	uncommon
Long-eared bat	<i>Myotis evotis evotis</i>	uncommon
Long-legged bat	<i>Myotis volans interior</i>	common
(Western) small-footed bat	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	uncommon
Silver-haired bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	uncommon
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus pallidus</i>	rare
Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus cinereus</i>	rare

FREE-TAILED BATS (MOLOSSIDAE)

Brazilian (=Mexican) free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana</i>	uncommon, migratory
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HARES & RABBITS (LEPORIDAE)

Nuttall's(=Mountain) Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii grangeri</i>	uncommon
Black-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	rare

SQUIRRELS, CHIPMUNKS & MARMOTS (SCIURIDAE)

Least chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>	uncommon
Rock squirrel	<i>Spermophilus variegatus</i>	common
Townsend's(=Piute) ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus townsendii mollis</i>	uncommon
Yellow-bellied marmot (=Rockchuck)	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	uncommon

POCKET GOPHERS (GEOMYIDAE)

Botta's pocket gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	common
Northern pocket gopher	<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	common

POCKET MICE (HETEROMYIDAE)

Great Basin pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus parvus</i>	uncommon
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	BEAVER (CASTORIDAE)	
American beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	common
	RATS, MICE, HARVEST MICE, GRASSHOPPER MICE, WOODRATS, VOLES, MUSKRAT (CRICETIDAE)	
Western harvest mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	common
Deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	common
Northern grasshopper mouse	<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	uncommon
Bushy-tailed woodrat	<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>	rare
Meadow vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus modestus</i>	common
Long-tailed vole	<i>Microtus longicaudus</i>	common
Montane vole	<i>Microtus montanus</i>	uncommon
Sagebrush vole	<i>Lagurus curatus</i>	common
Common muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	common
Nutria	<i>Myocaster coypus</i>	rare, exotic
Brown (=Norway) rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus norvegicus</i>	common, exotic, nuisance
Black rat	<i>Rattus rattus alexandrinus</i>	common, exotic, nuisance
House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	common, exotic, nuisance
	JUMPING MICE (ZAPODIDAE)	
Western jumping mouse	<i>Zapus princeps</i>	common
	PORCUPINES (ERETHIZONTIDAE)	
North American(=Common) porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	uncommon
	COYOTES & FOXES (CANIDAE)	
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	uncommon
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes macroura</i>	common
	RACCOON (PROCYONIDAE)	
Common Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor pallidus</i>	common, exotic, nuisance

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CATS (FELIDAE)

Mountain lion (=Cougar, Puma)	<i>Felis concolor</i>	rare
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	uncommon

BADGERS, SKUNKS, MINK & WEASELS (MUSTELIDAE)

American Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	uncommon
Western spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale gracilis gracilis</i>	common
Striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	common
American mink	<i>Mustela vison energumenos</i>	uncommon
Long-tailed weasel	<i>Mustela frenata nevadensis</i>	common
Short-tailed weasel (=Ermine)	<i>Mustela erminea muricus</i>	uncommon

DEER (CERVIDAE)

Mule deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	uncommon
Rocky Mountain Elk (=Wapiti)	<i>Cervus elaphus nelsoni</i>	rare
Shiras moose	<i>Alces alces shirasi</i>	rare

Ecology

Herbivorous mice, voles, and gophers have the greatest ecological impact along the Jordan River corridor through their sheer numbers. The two common, obligate water rodents beaver and muskrat would be next in importance, as both influence the Jordan with their significant impacts to vegetation and river banks with their feeding habits, runways and burrows in the banks. These are followed in importance by the insectivorous bats and shrews. The larger animals like deer and a variety of predators are far less common in the highly urbanized areas, as they do not generally get along well with humans in the corridor. Skunks and red fox are classic problematic native species.

Introduced exotic mammals have become quite a nuisance along the corridor. The most notable of these pests are rats and house mice that thrive in most areas inhabited by humans. Raccoons are another "habituated" exotic that have become more recent pests in the area.

Domesticated animals such as dogs, house cats, horses, etc. were not included on this list although they are extremely common along the river corridor, mostly associated with humans. It is significant that feral dogs and cats are responsible for the demise of many different kinds of fauna along the river. Dogs are especially damaging to larger vertebrates, and cats are especially hard on smaller mammals and migratory neo-tropical birds.

References:

- Mammals of the Intermountain West, S. I. Zevloff, University of Utah Press, 1988, 365 pp.
Inventory of the Vertebrates of the River State Park, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources report, 2003, 19 pp.