

Mammals of Boiling Springs State Park Woodward County, Oklahoma¹

TIM W. CLARK, Zoology Department,
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater

Boiling Springs, an 880-acre state park, is located 6 miles NE of Woodward, Oklahoma at an elevation of approximately 1,900 feet.

Duck and Fletcher (1943) classified this area as Stabilized Dune Type. This generally coincides with Sand Areas of Blair and Hubbell (1938). The climate of the region is of the continental type characterized by long hot summers and comparatively mild winters. Precipitation for a 64-year average is 25.07 inches. Temperatures for the 64 years ranged from -24 to 15 (avg 59.4)°F. The soils of the park are sandy and absorb most of the rain as it falls (USDA, 1960).

About 25 acres of the park are cultivated in wheat for the park wildlife. The majority of the land area of the park supports dense woody vegetation (botanical nomenclature of Waterfall, 1962). The wooded area is chiefly formed by: dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), american elm (*Ulmus americana*), chittarwood (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), chinaberry (*Sapindus drummondii*), hackberries (*Celtis* sp.), bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), and Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*). The understory is formed by: poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), buckbrush (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) and various grasses and forbs.

The park is situated in a shallow valley, which reduces evaporation and transpiration. The North Canadian River runs through the south side of the park and undoubtedly helps to maintain a high water table as evidenced by several springs in the park.

Random sampling of mammals was effected by means of live traps during the summer of 1965, although some species were recorded from sight or sign only. Common and scientific names are after Burt (1952).

MARSUPIALIA

DIDELPHIDAE

Didelphis marsupialis Linnaeus. Common opossum

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INSECTIVORA

TALPIDAE

Scalopus aquaticus (Linnaeus). Eastern mole

CARNIVORA

PROCYONIDAE

Procyon lotor (Linnaeus). Raccoon

MUSTELIDAE

Mephitis mephitis (Schreber). Striped skunk

Taxidea taxus (Schreber). Badger

CANIDAE

Canis latrans Say. Coyote

FELIDAE

Lynx rufus (Schreber). Bobcat

RODENTIA

SCIURIDAE

Citellus tridecemlineatus (Mitchill). Thirteen-lined ground squirrel

Sciurus niger Linnaeus. Eastern fox squirrel

GEOMYIDAE

Geomys bursarius (Shaw). Plains pocket gopher

HETEROMYIDAE

Perognathus hispidus Baird. Hispid pocket mouse

Dipodomys ordi Woodhouse. Ord kangaroo rat

CASTORIDAE

Castor canadensis Kuhl. Beaver

CRICETIDAE

Peromyscus leucopus (Rafinesque). White-footed mouse

Sigmodon hispidus Say and Ord. Cotton rat

Neotoma micropus Baird. Southern plains woodrat

MURIDAE

Mus musculus Linnaeus. House mouse

LAGOMORPHA

LEPORIDAE

Sylvilagus floridanus (Allen). Eastern cotton-tail

Lepus californicus Gray. Blacktail jackrabbit

ARTIODACTYLA

CERVIDAE

Odocoileus virginianus (Zimmermann). White-tail deer

Odocoileus hemionus (Rafinesque). Mule deer*

LITERATURE CITED

- Blair, W. F. and T. H. Hubbell. 1938. The biotic districts of Oklahoma. Amer. Midl. Nat. 20: 425-454.
- Burt, W. H. 1952. *A Field Guide to the Mammals*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 200 p.
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*During February, 1965, 18 mule deer (6 bucks and 7 does) were introduced into the park. Two mortalities are known from this group. No positive sightings have been made of the introduced mule deer in the park or the surrounding region since their release.
