

West Chester University

Digital Commons @ West Chester University

Gordon Natural Area Biodiversity Studies
Documents

Gordon Natural Area Biodiversity Studies

8-10-2020

Annotated Checklist of the Mammal Species Observed at the Gordon Natural Area West Chester University, PA) 2011-2020. Version I

Nur Ritter

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/gna_bds_series



Part of the [Zoology Commons](#)



Annotated Checklist of the Mammal Species Observed at the Gordon Natural Area West Chester University, PA) 2011-2020. Version I

Summary Data

Number of Taxa: 12 Species, in 12 Genera, 9 Families, and 5 Orders.

Description

No formal investigations of the mammals of the GNA have been conducted. And, until 2016, no system was in place for tracking annual observations of mammal species. Hence, this checklist represents a somewhat haphazard collection of data. GNA staff observations from 2016 onwards represent a significant portion of the data. These observations have been augmented by data from various reports and from photos from the GNA that were posted to Facebook.

Status/Threats

IUCN Status: Data are from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2020).

The GNA checklist was compared with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Environmental Review List (PNHP 2020). None of the eleven mammal species listed on the environmental review list are known to occur in the GNA. The checklist was also compared with the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Action Plan (PGC 2020). None of the nineteen mammals listed in the Wildlife Action Plan are known for the GNA. And, the checklist was compared with species listed in the Chester County Natural Heritage Inventory (PNHP 2015). None of the mammal species known for the GNA were listed as being of special concern in Chester County.

Species

Canidae

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

Observers not known

The year(s) in which this species was observed not known

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Increasing

Notes: There have been occasional reports of Coyotes having been seen at the Gordon. At this time, we aren't able to identify the year(s) when this species was observed.

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

First Noted By: G. Hertel; **Also Noted By:** K. McMillin; N. Ritter; M. Beatty; A. Rivellini

Years Observed: 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

Cervidae

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

First Noted By: N. Ritter; **Also Noted By:** G. Hertel; K. McMillin; P. Vermeulen; M. Beatty; J. Kline; A. Rivellini; N. Long

Years Observed: 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

Notes: White-tailed deer have undoubtedly been noted during every year that the GNA has been in existence. However, other than a report of this species at the dedication ceremony for the GNA in 1973, the first record we've found for this species was from 2011.

Cricetidae

White-footed Mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*)

Noted By: G. Hertel

Year Observed: 2011

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

Didelphidae

Opposum (*Didelphis virginiana*)

Noted By: K. McMillin

Year Observed: 2011

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Increasing

Leporidae

Cottontail Rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Unknown

Mephitidae

Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2019

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

Muridae

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Noted By: J. Kline

Year Observed: 2018

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

Procyonidae

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Increasing

Sciuridae

Groundhog; Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*)

Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2019

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

First Noted By: N. Ritter; **Also Noted By:** P. Vermeulen

Years Observed: 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Increasing

American Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)

Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2019

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

References

[IUCN] International Union for the Conservation of Species. 2020. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2020-2. <https://www.iucnredlist.org>. Date Accessed: 6/30/2020.

[PGC] Pennsylvania Game Commission. 2020. <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeActionPlan/Pages/default.aspx>. Date accessed: 7/28/20.

[PNHP] Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2015. Chester County Natural Heritage Inventory Update 2015. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pittsburgh, PA. 609 pp.

[PNHP] Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2020. Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Environmental Review List (<http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/Species.aspx>); Date accessed: 3/27/2020.

Metadata

This document was generated from the GNA Database. Database created and data maintained by Nur Ritter, Stewardship Manager, Gordon Natural Area.

Recommended Citation: Ritter, N. 2020. Annotated checklist of the mammal species observed at the Gordon Natural Area (West Chester University, PA) 2011-2020. Version I. 6 pp. Database queried and document created: 8/9/2020.