



The Black Bear is the largest predator in the GSMNP, and is most often spotted in more open areas such as the Cataloochee Valley and Cades Cove. Ten other carnivore species inhabit the park, including coyotes, red foxes, and gray foxes. These animals are more likely to be spotted quiet by surprise along the road sides

near dark. Scientists believe that the bobcat is the only wild feline that lives in the park. Visitors and locals alike often report seeing a mountain lion, however no concrete scientific evidence of their existence has been found in the park in the last 30 years.

Raccoons prowling campgrounds for unsecured human food are second only to bears in causing wildlife problems for visitors. Raccoons and skunks can carry rabies, so always report unusual animal behavior to park rangers.

All 11 species of bats in the park feed exclusively on insects. Seven of the species hibernate during the colder months while the 4 migrate. Most of the caves in the park provide critical bat habitat. Because bats can be harmed by human disturbance in these caves, visitors are prohibited from entering them.

There are 27 species of rodents in the park— the most of any mammal order. The deer mouse and white-footed mouse are the most common. Eastern chipmunks, gray squirrels, and red squirrels are common in the forest. The woodchuck or groundhog can be seen in open meadows and along mowed roadsides. Signs of the largest rodent, the beaver is evident along lower portions of the creeks in the west and southwest portions of the park.

The park's 11 shrew and mole species are insectivores that are rarely seen as they tunnel in search of prey beneath the soil and vegetation. 2 species of rabbits live in the park. The Eastern cottontail is common in many habitats and can be seen in open areas, while the Appalachian cottontail is an uncommon and secretive forest dweller.



Wildlife of The Great Smoky Mountains



Jackson
COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
CASHIERS · CULLOWHEE · DILLSBORO · SYLVA · WHITTIER

Jackson County Chamber of
Commerce

www.mountainlovers.com

828-586-2155/800-962-1911

Inside the boundaries of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park there are some 66 species of mammals, over 200 varieties of birds, 50 native fish species and more than 80 types of reptiles and amphibians. Perhaps the most famous resident of the park is the American Black Bear. Although the population changes quickly, biologist estimate approximately 1500 bears live in the park. That is a density of about 2 bears per square mile. Of the other 65 mammal species documented in the park, the white tailed deer, groundhog, chipmunk, and some squirrel and bat species are perhaps the most commonly seen. There are over 200 species of birds regularly sighted in the park, 85 of those migrate from the neotropics. There are at least 120 species that nest here. Over 700 miles of streams support fish in the park. There are over 50 native species. The Great Smoky Mountain National Park has also been called the "Salamander Capital of the World." Climatic and geologic factors have combined to spur the development of 30 salamander species in 5 families, making this one of the most diverse areas on earth for this order. In fact, lungless salamanders have undergone an extraordinary level of evolutionary diversification in the park– 24 species inhabit the park, making it the center of diversity for the family. Prior to park establishment in 1934, many animals native to the area were eradicated by hunting, trapping, changing land use, and other causes. The National Park has helped re-introduce the river otter, elk, and Peregrine Falcon to the Smokies.



This list is just a small portion of the critters who inhabit the park!

Amphibians

Eastern American Toad
Northern Cricket Frog
Northern spring peeper
Eastern narrow-mouthed toad
Bullfrog
Pickereel Frog
Wood Frog
Spotted Salamander
Mole Salamander
Eastern hellbender
Mudpuppy
Red-spotted Newt
Green Salamander
Spotted dusky Salamander
Shovel nose salamander
Blackbelly salamander
Three-lined salamander
Junaluska salamander

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Ring-necked Duck
Harlequin
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Golden Eagle
Peregrine Falcon
Ruffed Grouse
Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite
Morning Dove
Barn Owl
Eastern Screech Owl
Great Horned Owl
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-headed woodpecker
Barn Swallow
Blue Jay
American Crow
Wrens
Eastern Blue Bird

Black Crappie
Tennessee Shiner
Yellow perch
Walleye
American Brook
Rainbow Trout
Brown Trout
Brook Trout
Virginia Opossum
Masked Shrew
Smoky Shrew
Hairy-tailed Mole
Eastern Mole
Star-nosed mole
Little brown myotis
Silver-haired bat
Big-brown bat
Evening Bat
Eastern Cottontail
Appalachian Cottontail
Eastern Chipmunk
Woodchuck
Gray Squirrel
Eastern fox Squirrel

Common Muskrat
Black Rat
House Mouse
Coyote
Red Wolf
Gray Wolf
Red Fox
Gray Fox
Black Bear
Raccoon
Long-tailed weasel
Mink Mustela
Eastern Spotted Skunk
Striped Skunk
Northern River Otter
Bobcat
Wild Hog
Wapiti or elk
White-tailed Deer
American Bison

Mammals

Birds

Red-throated loon
Pied-billed Grebe
American Bittern
Great Egret
Green Heron
Yellow-crowned Night Heron
Snow Goose

Warblers
Sparrows
Finches

Fish

Brook Silverside
Rock Bass
Smallmouth Bass
White Bass

Red Squirrel
Southern Flying-squirrel
Northern Fly-squirrel
American Beaver
Marsh Rise Rat
Eastern Harvest Mouse
Deer mouse