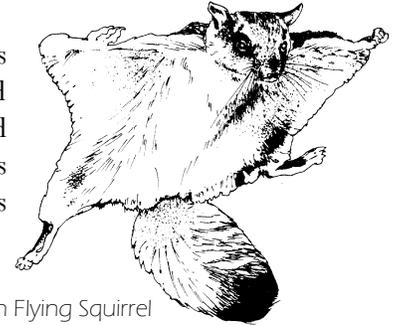




8 Description & Assessment of Wildlife Attributes

This section provides an overview of the wildlife in High Park based on what is known to be in the Park and what could potentially live there given the existing and potential habitat conditions. Most of the wildlife information has been compiled from secondary sources by Brian Henshaw (GLL 2001), with additional comments and observations provided by George Bryant and Bob Yukich. Historical records have been incorporated into the lists for birds and butterflies (see *Appendices B & C*).



Southern Flying Squirrel

8.1 Mammals

A comprehensive survey of High Park's mammals has not been undertaken. Historically, a variety of mammal species were present, but many have disappeared from the Park. Examples include Southern Flying Squirrel, which was reported in the mid-1970s (Wainio et al. 1976) but not subsequently. The current list is provided in *Table 2* below, and includes only species that have been recently recorded or that are likely to occur within the Park.

All the mammals listed in *Table 2* are urban tolerant. Only the Eastern Cottontail and Flying Squirrel could be considered unusual in an urban environment. Notably, the Flying Squirrel is considered to be rare to uncommon in Ontario (provincial rank S3) by the Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC), and is therefore a species of conservation concern.

TABLE 2. Mammals currently on record High Park (GLL 2001; G. Bryant, pers. comm. 2001).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status Notes
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	increasing, recent records, uncommon
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	common
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	common
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	scarce, may now be absent
Southern Flying-Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	none have been reliably recorded since ~1976
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	uncommon
Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	abundant
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	common
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	uncommon
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	present in 1994
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	present
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	common
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	common
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	pond area only
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	increasing in Toronto
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	resident
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	less common, but still occurs
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	common
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	common