

CHECKLIST OF THE MAMMALS OF THE LESLIE STREET SPIT		
Common name	Scientific Name	Notes
<i>Rodents</i>		
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	Common. A favorite prey of the Saw-whet Owls that winter on the Spit.
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	As above. These two species of mice are virtually impossible to tell apart in the field.
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Very common. Sustains local populations of foxes, coyotes, mink, and avian raptors.
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Common. Both black and gray colour phases are present on the Spit.
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	Fairly common, especially in the Baselands. Individual specimens wander down to the Spit from the allotments on Leslie Street, where they are the bane of the gardeners.
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Common. Every pond has its lodge.
American Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Common. A longstanding and emblematic mammal on the Spit. Mainly nocturnal, but evidence of its tree-felling activity is ubiquitous.
<i>Rabbit Family</i>		
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Common throughout.
<i>Weasel Family</i>		
Short-tailed Weasel (Ermine)	<i>Mustela richardsonii</i>	Very rare. There has been only one credible report of this species on the Spit, from the early 2000s. Seen in its winter pelage crossing the ice-covered Triangle Pond.
American Mink	<i>Neogale vison</i>	Very common. Almost always seen either in or close by a body of water.
River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	Extirpated from Toronto in the 20 th century, this species has recently made a comeback. It has been reported on the Spit since

		2019, first singly and more recently in family groupings.
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Fairly common. Preyed on by the Great Horned Owls that winter on the Spit.
Opossum		
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	Uncommon and rarely seen.
Raccoon		
Common Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Common. Most often seen asleep in the crook of a tree.
Dog Family		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Comes and goes. When present, easily observed since it is active during the day and not terribly shy.
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Common. Note that the Eastern Coyote averages about 10 pounds heavier than its western cousin. The question of the so-called Coy-wolf is too complicated to deal with here.
Hooved Animals		
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Uncommon, but its numbers seem to have increased in recent years.
Bats		
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Fairly common. This is the species most likely to make use of the bat boxes in the Baselands. Hibernates for the winter in caves and buildings.
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Fairly common but seldom seen.
Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Uncommon and seldom seen.
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Uncommon. During the day, most often seen sleeping on a tree trunk.
Eastern Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Uncommon. Most often encountered in fall migration. The Spit and Toronto Islands seem to be staging points for this species as it moves south.



Red Fox, photo by Edward O'Connor



Coyote, photo by Edward O'Connor