

# Mammals of Florida Springs, Spring Runs, and Sinkholes

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This table focuses on the species most likely to be of interpretive interest in springs ecosystems. Other mammals often seen in these habitats include gray squirrel, opossum, bat, eastern pipistrelle, and, at Silver Springs, escaped rhesus monkeys. Explanatory text and downloadable files are posted at <http://floridaspringsinstitute.org>. This information was compiled by Linda Duever through a Protect Florida Springs grant and should be cited as follows: Duever, L.C. 2012. Characteristic species of Florida springs, spring runs, and sinkholes. A set of tables funded by the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. and published in cooperation with the Florida Springs Institute. Conway Conservation. Micanopy, FL.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Castor canadensis</i>	beaver	Beavers occur around many north Florida springs and spring runs, but are seldom seen. Stick dams and gnawed sweetgum,, ash, and willow trees are evidence of their nocturnal activities. They sometimes chew on cypress knees. <a href="http://www.arkive.org/american-beaver/castor-canadensis/image-G54901.html">http://www.arkive.org/american-beaver/castor-canadensis/image-G54901.html</a>
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	southeastern big-eared bat	These uncommon bats often roost in hollow cypress or gum trees and feed over water. They are rarely seen because they do not begin foraging until after dark. FNAI G3G4/S2. <a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/abbottnaturephotography/3419635251/in/set-72157621866111526">http://www.flickr.com/photos/abbottnaturephotography/3419635251/in/set-72157621866111526</a>
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	red bat	These common bats frequently feed over springs and spring runs. They roost in tree foliage. <a href="http://sdakotabirds.com/non_birds/eastern_red_bat.htm">http://sdakotabirds.com/non_birds/eastern_red_bat.htm</a>
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	seminole bat	These common bats frequently feed over springs and spring runs. They roost in pine trees and spanish moss. <a href="http://www.mnh.si.edu/mna/image_info.cfm?species_id=123">http://www.mnh.si.edu/mna/image_info.cfm?species_id=123</a>
<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	river otter	Otters are common in springs systems. Visitors are captivated by the antics of these playful mammals. <a href="http://robertgiordano.blogspot.com/2011/11/otters-at-museum-of-discovery-and.html">http://robertgiordano.blogspot.com/2011/11/otters-at-museum-of-discovery-and.html</a>
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	southeastern bat	These common bats frequently feed over springs and spring runs. They roost in caves, culverts, bridges, hollow trees, and buildings. <a href="http://www.fnai.org/FieldGuide/pdf/Myotis_austroriparius.PDF">http://www.fnai.org/FieldGuide/pdf/Myotis_austroriparius.PDF</a>

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<i>Procyon lotor</i>	raccoon	<p>These masked mammals are abundant in the forests around springs. They usually rest in hollow trees during the day, then come out to prow the water's edge at night. Feeding them causes problems.</p> <p><a href="http://www.glowimages.com.pa/snippets/previewimage/index.cfm?imgid=54417478&amp;tab=">http://www.glowimages.com.pa/snippets/previewimage/index.cfm?imgid=54417478&amp;tab=</a></p>
<i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i>	florida manatee	<p>These big gentle mammals migrate from the ocean into warmer water in the winter. Visitors must be taught not to stress them by approaching too closely. They float at the surface and are often killed by speeding motorboats. FNAI G2/S2. USFWS Endangered.</p> <p><a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsendsp/5105573860/in/photostream/">http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsendsp/5105573860/in/photostream/</a></p>