

# Mammals

Mammals have warm blood and are furry or hairy. They feed their babies milk. Rabbits and deer are mammals, and so are YOU.

## ☐ Opossum

This nocturnal animal (active at night) feeds on almost anything including garbage! Grey in color, with a partially prehensile tail (for grasping).



## ☐ Raccoon

The raccoon has a masked face and a ringed tail. It is nocturnal and spends most days sleeping high in trees. Look for tracks in the mud along the trail; they look like tiny hands.



## ☐ Armadillo

Armadillo means "little man in armor" in Spanish and refers to the bony plates that help protect the armadillo from its enemies. Look for small holes in the dirt where the armadillo has rooted around for insects to eat. Mainly nocturnal.



## ☐ Swamp Rabbit

This very common brown rabbit with a white tail hides in thorny bushes and feeds on grasses, leaves and flowers.



## ☐ Squirrel

Three kinds of squirrels live in Jones Park. Fox squirrels are reddish-brown; grey squirrels are smaller than fox squirrels with a white belly; flying squirrels are very small and only come out at night. All three like to eat nuts, acorns and berries.



## ☐ Coyote

Coyotes belong to the canine family, just like dogs. They are very smart and stay away from people. Coyotes eat small rodents and rabbits.



## ☐ Bobcat

About three times larger than a house cat, the bobcat has light brown fur, pointed ears and a short (bobbed) tail. Bobcats spend most days high in a tree and hunt for rabbits and squirrels at night.



## ☐ Deer

Deer are the largest animals in Jones Park. Deer are very fast runners and excellent jumpers. They eat leaves, grasses, acorns and berries.



## ☐ Beaver

A large rodent that lives in underground dens gnawed in the banks of Spring Creek, the beaver cuts down trees along the creek bank to eat the green inner bark.



# Birds

Birds have feathers and lay eggs. There are many kinds of birds flying around Jones Park; just look and listen!



## ☐ Pileated Woodpecker

A very large woodpecker that has a loud "laughing" call—just like Woody Woodpecker. It makes large holes in dead trees, pecking for insects to eat.

## ☐ Red-bellied Woodpecker

This smaller woodpecker prefers to hunt for insects in dead trees.

## ☐ Red-shouldered Hawk

This hawk is often seen circling over the park searching for mice, birds, frogs or snakes, and calling, "Kee-ah, kee-ah."

## ☐ Barred Owl

A round-headed owl with dark eyes that hunts mice, snakes and crayfish, and is more often heard than seen. It seems to call, "Who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-all?"



## ☐ Cardinal

A beautiful bright red (male) or red-grey (female) bird that is often seen flitting from bush to bush, eating berries and seeds. Cardinals have several different calls, including, "Pretty, pretty, pretty!"



## ☐ Crow

A large black bird, the crow is noisy and often seen in groups. The picnic area is a common place to find crows. Listen for their call, "Caw! caw! caw!"

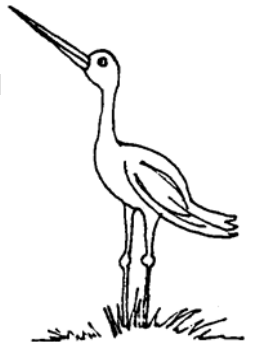


## ☐ Mockingbird

The state bird of Texas, mockingbirds are grey, black and white and can imitate the calls of many birds.

## ☐ Egrets and Herons

Tall and slender, white or grey-blue, egrets and herons have long beaks and legs for catching fish, frogs, and crayfish. Be quiet approaching the ponds or creek and you might see one "fishing."



**Blue Jay**

You might hear this bright blue bird with white and black markings calling its name, "Jay, jay, jay," as you walk through the woods.



**Wood Duck**



Wood ducks are very colorful ducks that live near swamps and ponds and nest in hollow trees. They feed mainly on water plants and are usually seen flying away.

# Reptiles

Of the 30 kinds of snakes found in Jones Park, only three are venomous: the copperhead, the coral snake, and the cottonmouth. If you see a snake, LEAVE IT ALONE!



**Copperhead**

This is the most common venomous snake found in the park. Brown and tan, with hourglass-shaped markings, copperheads are very camouflaged (hidden) among the dead leaves on the ground. So watch your step!

**Ribbon Snake**

Ribbon snakes are often called garden snakes. They have yellow and black lines running the lengths of their bodies. These snakes are harmless and are often found near water.



**Water Snake**

Commonly found in the ponds and creek are the non-venomous broad-banded, yellowbellied and diamond-back water snakes. They feed on fish, tadpoles, frogs and small turtles, and are often seen sunning on logs over the water. Water snakes are confused with the venomous cottonmouth, since they both like to live near water.



**Texas Brown Snake**

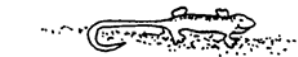
This non-venomous snake is found in lawns and gardens as well as in the forest. It eats earthworms and insects.

**American Anole**

A very common lizard which can be green or brown in color and is incorrectly called a "chameleon." Anoles are about five inches long and eat insects.



**Skink**



Sudden rustling of leaves on the forest floor is usually a brown skink hurrying by on tiny legs. Skinks live under logs and eat insects.

**Box Turtle**

These land turtles are active during the day and burrow under logs to hide or sleep. Box turtles are the only turtles that can pull their head and legs completely inside their shell for protection. Box turtles eat slugs, berries, earthworms, plants and insects.



**Red-eared Slider**

Red-eared sliders are usually seen sunning during warm weather, but stay hidden during the winter. This common turtle of the ponds and creek has a small red stripe behind the eye.

**Alligator**

Although uncommon, these reptiles are occasionally seen passing through Jones Park boundaries along Spring Creek. Let us know if you see one!

# Amphibians

**Gulf Coast Toad**

**Bullfrog**

**Tree Frog**



# Insects



**Butterfly**

**Mosquito**

**Bee or Wasp**

**Ant**

**Beetle**

## How Did You Do?

25 or more ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
16-24 ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
8-15 ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
0-7 ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrations by  
Dee Coleman



# Critter Checklist



## Jones Park,

a Harris County Precinct 4 facility with over 300-acres, is dedicated to preserving a piece of nature near Houston. It provides recreation and nature education to park visitors. Walk quietly and use all of your senses. How many of the animals in this list can you see or hear today?

Please wear shoes, stay on the trails and help us keep our park beautiful! Remember that the plants and animals in the park are wild and are protected by law!



 **Jerry Eversole, Commissioner**  
Harris County Precinct 4