

Mammals

Most mammals found within Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve are quite shy, and many are only seen during the quieter times of the day or in more secluded areas of the preserve. The exceptions are the javelinas and the rabbits, which can be seen all over, including right along the main paths. Bobcats, mule deer, and coyotes are a joy to see, but sightings are less common and typically fleeting.

Thank you to fellow iNaturalist user **Peter Siminski** of Friends of the San Pedro River for reading through this section and for reviewing so many mammal observations from the preserve.

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Common name: Desert Cottontail

Scientific name: *Sylvilagus audubonii*

Sightings: Abundant

Notes: These rabbits are all over the preserve and very easy to spot. When alarmed by speedy bicyclists they will occasionally leap straight up into the air.



Common name: Collared Peccary

Scientific name: *Pecari tajacu*

Sightings: Common

Notes: Despite their appearance, these are not pigs. Peccaries are New World relatives of Old World pigs. They have poor eyesight but an excellent sense of smell. They can be alarmed by dogs as coyotes prey on their young. Also known as javelina.

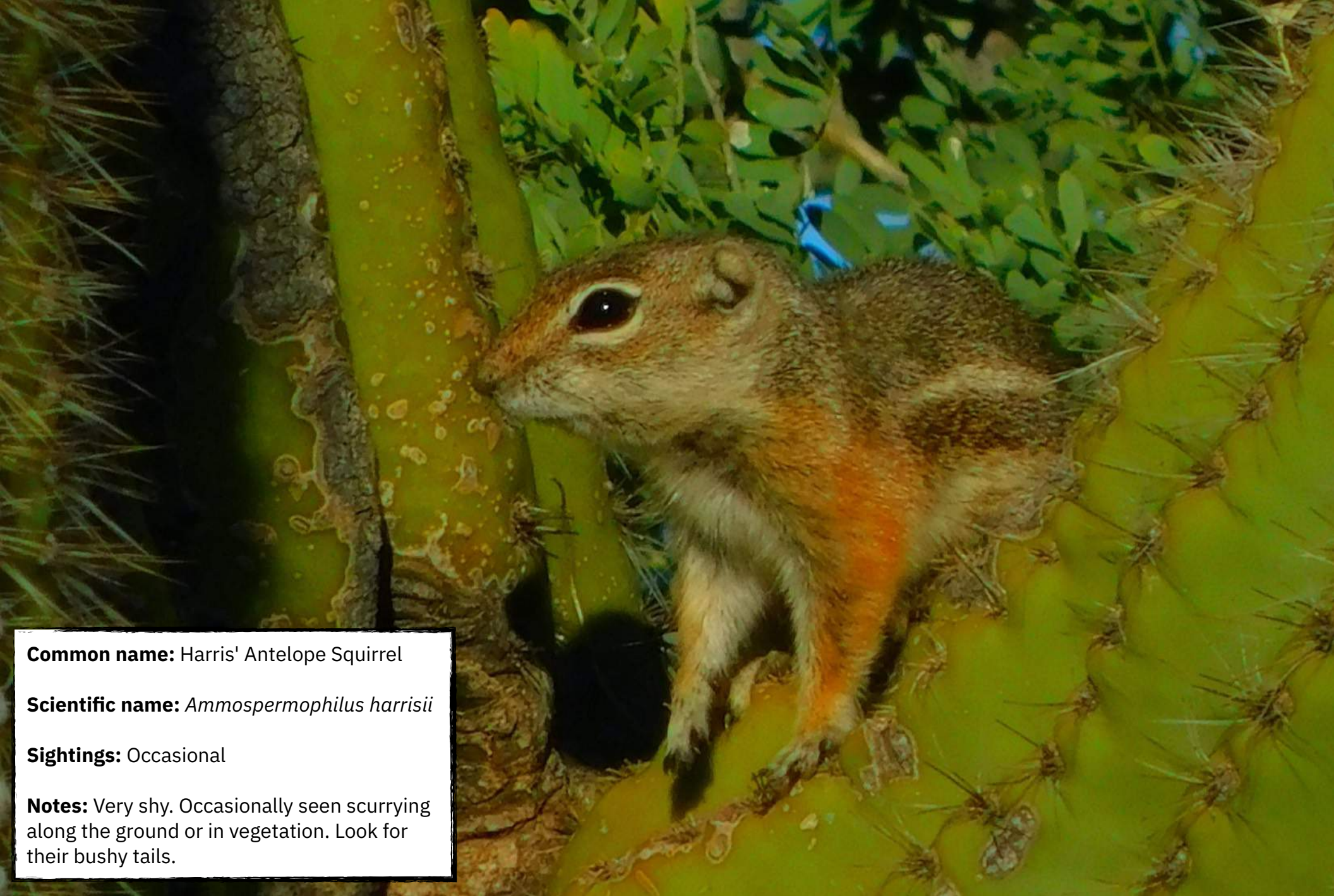


Common name: Mule Deer

Scientific name: *Odocoileus hemionus*

Sightings: Common

Notes: Found all over the preserve, these deer are always around, although they tend to be wary of people. Look for them amidst the vegetation, farther afield in the preserve.



Common name: Harris' Antelope Squirrel

Scientific name: *Ammospermophilus harrisi*

Sightings: Occasional

Notes: Very shy. Occasionally seen scurrying along the ground or in vegetation. Look for their bushy tails.

Photo credit: Gordy Parkhill

Common name: Round-tailed Ground Squirrel

Scientific name: *Xerospermophilus tereticaudus*

Sightings: Occasional

Notes: Very shy. Look for their heads poking out of burrows.





Common name: Merriam's Kangaroo Rat

Scientific name: *Dipodomys merriami*

Sightings: Occasional

Notes: Although these adorable rodents are actually quite numerous in the preserve, they are generally only seen at night. Look for fur-tipped, long tails as they hop across the paths after sunset.

Common name: Long-legged Myotis

Scientific name: *Myotis volans*

Sightings: Occasional

Notes: Mouse-eared bats (genus *Myotis*), often rest in the tunnels of the preserve at night in the warmer months. If you enter the tunnels quickly or make noise they will fly out. If you enter quietly and slowly they will stay put. This one is a long-legged myotis.





Common name: Coyote

Scientific name: *Canis latrans*

Sightings: Occasional

Notes: Coyotes can be seen anywhere in the preserve. They are most often seen around sunset and sunrise, typically moving fast. They run in packs and solo.



Common name: Bobcat

Scientific name: *Lynx rufus*

Sightings: Uncommon

Notes: Consider yourself lucky if you spot one! They are not at all aggressive to people. This one has just taken a roadrunner.

Not Yet Identified

Several other mammals have been observed in the preserve, including bats, packrats, pocket mice, pocket gophers, and cotton rats. However, these are uncommonly seen (except the bats flying around on warm evenings) and even harder to identify. Please refer to the appendix for a more complete species list or take a look at observations on iNaturalist. Some animals, including those pictured below, have been photographed but not yet identified to the species level.



A pocket mouse (genus *Chaetodipus*, likely *penicillatus*)



A bat (genus *Myotis*, possibly *volans*, *occultus*, or *yumanensis*)