

# ENVIROTHON WILDLIFE

## Mammals



## Mammals

Over 90 species of mammals can be found on the land and in the air, and water of Florida.

All mammals have some unique characteristics in common.

- Mammals have hair. The amount of hair may vary but all mammals have it. Most use hair for insulation from either hot or cold.

- Mammals bear live young. This allows pregnant females to be mobile.

- All mammals provide nourishment to young with milk.

The term “Warm Blooded” is often used in association with mammals. This is more

accurately described as being endotherms.

Endotherms actively regulate their body temperature, keeping it more or less constant all the time. Ectotherms rely on outside sources of heat (the sun) to heat themselves.

Mammals eat a variety of foods. Herbivores eat mainly plant material while carnivores eat other animals. Insectivores eat insects and omnivores eat a mixed diet of both plant and animal matter.

This guide highlights a few of Florida’s common and interesting mammals. For more species please visit:

[Wildflorida.com](http://Wildflorida.com)

[FWC Species info](http://FWC Species info)

# Carnivores

## Florida Panther

You may hear the Florida panther called by several names, including puma, cougar, mountain lion and catamount, but all these names refer to the same cat. Florida panthers were thought to be extinct until 1973, when a puma was 'treed' by a hunter at Fish-eating Creek near Lake Okeechobee. Today, a small, remnant population of 70-80 cats survives in south Florida.



Since 1981 more than 130 Florida panthers have been radio collared and followed, mostly using light aircraft. The data show that males range over very large areas — roughly 200 sq miles (519 sq km) — while female home ranges are approximately 75 sq miles (194 sq km). A surprising number of people in Florida claim to have seen black Florida panthers.

black bobcats, there are no skins or specimens of black pumas. Biologists insist that there are no black pumas in Florida, and maintain that they should know, because most Florida panthers have been radio collared, photographed, and followed since birth.

Literally hundreds of 'sightings' of black panthers occur in Florida every year but none have ever been authenticated. While there are black jaguars, black leopards, and even

- **Florida's state Mammal**
- **Largest cat in the Americas**
- **Only Breed in South Florida**



Courtesy of FWC

## Carnivores

# Bobcat

Bobcats are medium-sized cats; males weigh about 12 kg (26 lb), females slightly smaller at 9 kg. They have a short tail, only 4-6 inches long, white underneath and dark bands on top. Their large ears are tipped with a short tuft of black hairs. The backs of the ears are black with a prominent white spot. There is considerable variation in coloration, and interestingly, 10 of 11 records of melanistic (black) individuals are from Florida and all Florida records are from the southern part of the state.

Bobcats prefer areas with dense cover or uneven, broken terrain. They will use brush piles, hollow logs, caves, and dense bushes for shelter.

Hunting primarily at night, bobcats kill mammals ranging in size from mice to deer, as well as fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds. Most prey weigh about 2 kg (4 lb), but these cats are capable of taking prey 10 times their own weight. In Florida, cotton rats, rabbits and birds are major prey items. Bobcats in the Big Cypress National Preserve regularly kill both adult female deer and fawns.





# Carnivores

## Florida Black Bear

When it comes to wildlife, the black bear is the largest land mammal you are likely to see in Florida. The only thing bigger is the aquatic manatee.

Florida black bears are not huge; female bears average about 180 lbs (82kg) and males 249 lbs (113 kg). However a few males grow considerably larger - in 1990, a male killed by a car in south Florida weighed in at 627 lb!

Florida bears are usually completely black with a brown muzzle and occasionally a light colored chest patch. Bears in south Florida sometimes lose the long black guard hairs and become woolly brown.



Black bear footprints look like the print made by the heel of a human hand pressed into the dirt. They are about the same size as the print a human hand would make, and the long, non-retractable claws are usually obvious.

Black bears use a wide range of forested lands, and feed in different habitats at different seasons as foods become available. In early spring they feed on emerging green vegetation. During summer they concentrate on fruits of the saw palmetto, swamp tupelo, cabbage palm, blueberry, grapes and sweet gallberry. Black gum fruits, and nuts and acorns become important during fall, and insects, honey, small animals, and carrion supplement their diet year round.

Except for females and their cubs, bears are solitary animals. Adults often have overlapping home ranges, but they rarely travel or feed together except in the mating season.

Bears have relatively large home ranges – females travel over about 28 sq km (11 sq miles) and male ranges average 170 sq km (66 sq miles).

In northern states, both male and female bears hibernate for several months and females give birth during hibernation. In Florida, adult males, non-pregnant females and young adults often remain active throughout the year or den only for a short time. Pregnant females are the exception - they always hibernate, even in places like Florida where winter temperatures remain warm and food is plentiful.

In Florida, female black bears give birth in January or February to a litter of two or three cubs. When the cubs are about two months old they begin to travel with their mother; however they continue to nurse until fall and the family does not split up

until the cubs are about 16 months old. This long period of maternal investment means that females only breed every other year. About half of all cubs die during the first year of life.

Recent estimates put Florida's bear numbers at somewhere between 1500 and 3000. Collisions with vehicles are the leading cause of bear mortality. In 2007, 142 bears were killed on Florida's roads.

Authorities are attempting to reduce the number of bears killed by cars by putting up bear crossing signs at sites where bears frequently cross roads, and including wildlife underpasses in new highway construction projects.

You are most likely to see bears in 5 major public areas in Florida: Ocala National Forest, Osceola National Forest-Okefenokee Swamp, Apalachicola National Forest, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Eglin Air Force Base. Small populations of 20-40 bears occur in the Chassahowitzka NWR and the Highland/ Glades county area.



### Bear-Human Conflict

Between 1978 and 2001 there were 4,389 reports of human/bear conflicts reported in Florida. Almost half of these reports were of a bear in the yard. The second most frequent complaint was of bears in garbage cans.

The current policy of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission towards 'nuisance' bears is to first try removing the attractants, or preventing access by bears, or installation of an electric fence. Second-time offenders are trapped, tattooed, ear tagged and relocated. Third-time offenders may be euthanized.

# Carnivores

## Raccoon & Opossum

### Raccoon

Raccoons are common throughout Florida, including the Keys. They are found nearly everywhere there is water and cover.

Florida raccoons are smaller than raccoons in the northern US. Adults only weigh 3-9 kg (6.6-20 lb) and are about the size of a large, stout domestic cat. They have a bushy tail marked with 4-7 alternating brown and black rings, and a black facial mask edged with white above and below. Light cinnamon-colored raccoons show up quite frequently in south Florida.

Raccoons have five toes on both front and back feet, the soles of the feet are bare, and the claws are short and curved. The front feet are well adapted for manipulating objects, and the species is well

known for its dexterous handling of objects.

Raccoons are also one of Florida's most common urban animals, frequently seen around parks, campsites and homes. Under most circumstances they are fun to watch and harmless when left alone. Problems arise because people find it difficult not to feed them. Raccoons are highly intelligent animals that will eat practically anything, and it takes only a few handouts from well-meaning people to teach them that humans are a source of food. When raccoons become conditioned to seeing humans as a source of food they can become a problem. They raid garbage cans, find their way into garages and sheds, and



generally make a nuisance of themselves.

Because they may carry distemper and rabies, any contact with a raccoon is dangerous. Even though they look really cute Do not feed them. Most rabies outbreaks in Florida are associated with raccoons, in fact each year, raccoons account for 65% of cases of animal rabies in the state.

### Virginia Opossum

If someone asks you to name a mammal with a pouch, odds are you'd say 'kangaroo'. But you'd also be right if you said 'opossum'.

Opossums grow throughout their short lives, resulting in considerable size and weight differences; they range from about 1 kg (2.2 lbs) to 6 kg (13 lbs) and males are larger and heavier than females.

About the size of a domestic cat, they have a pointed nose with long, highly sensitive whiskers, thin, leaf-like ears and a nearly naked, prehensile tail that is black at the base and pinkish for the remainder. Opossums often wrap their tails around branches when they climb to help them balance, but contrary to popular belief, they rarely hang by their tails. Whenever you see a photograph of an opossum hanging by its tail you can be fairly sure it is because the photographer posed it that way. Opossum feet are adapted for climbing, and all the toes, except the

opposable thumb on the hind foot have claws. Females have a fur-lined pouch on the abdomen.

Opossums are found in a variety of forested habitats and survive well in suburban areas where they are often considered pests because of their habits of raiding garbage cans. They spend the day resting in tree cavities, hollow logs or underground burrows and emerge after sunset to search for food. They eat practically anything, including fruit, insects, worms, small vertebrates, carrion, garbage and pet food.

In Florida opossums begin to breed in January. The young are born in an embryonic state after a 13-day gestation. The bee-sized babies emerge from the birth canal and make their own way to the mother's pouch where they attach their mouths to a nipple. Microbarbs on the babies' lips and tongue fit into small grooves on the nipples, essentially sealing each young to a teat. The usual litter size in Florida is seven.





# Carnivores

## Coyote & Gray Fox

### Coyote

Traditionally associated with the American West, the coyote has become well established throughout the eastern United States. The removal of wolves and pumas, and the conversion of forest to more open habitats have promoted this range expansion. Recent observations of coyotes in New York's Central Park are a testament to their adaptability.

Coyotes first appeared in the Florida panhandle in the 1970's and are now well established throughout the state. The range expansion of the coyote and the red fox into Florida were also enhanced by hunters who repeatedly brought large numbers of both species into the state. The introduced coyotes and red foxes were released into the wild and used to train hunting dogs. The

loss of forest cover and the increasing habitat fragmentation that is accompanying Florida's rapid growth appears to be especially beneficial to the coyote and the red fox.

Coyotes are adaptable and opportunistic carnivores, flexible in their feeding habits and quite tolerant of people. They feed on small animals, fruit, and insects but

they will also eat out of garbage cans, and scavenge road-killed animals. Coyotes also take domestic livestock and are known to be serious predators of sheep and newborn calves. They are known to damage watermelon crops by biting chunks out of ripening melons.

Coyotes have a variable mating system: they may pair for life or for a single season. Both parents guard and feed the young. Interestingly, coyotes respond to increasing persecution by increasing their litter size, thus compensating for population losses.



### Gray Fox



The **gray fox** is one of Florida's most commonly seen carnivores. Though most are wary, some individuals become quite tame. They are frequently seen at night on unpaved roads, and individuals often allow themselves to be followed for some distance. The gray fox has a wide red-orange stripe along both flanks and on the sides of the neck, and a black-tipped tail. It is often confused with the **red fox**, which is a mahogany red, and has a white-tipped tail.

Red and gray foxes are similar in size and weigh 3-5 kg (7-11 lb). A coyote weighs about 3 times as much as a fox and looks like a smaller bushy-tailed version of a German shepherd dog.

Gray foxes are adaptable, opportunistic carnivores, flexible in their feeding habits, and quite tolerant of people. They feed on small animals, fruit, and insects, but they

will also eat out of garbage cans and scavenge road-killed animals. Gray foxes prey heavily on rabbits, but they also eat rodents, birds, insects, acorns and fruit. They are active at night and usually hunt alone. They move at a rapid trot, eyes, ears and nose alert for signs of prey.

Gray foxes are most abundant in hardwood forests, pine-oak woodlands and brushy fields. They are the only member of the canid (dog) family that regularly climbs trees and have been seen in trees at heights up to 18 meters (59 ft).

Gray foxes usually form pair bonds that last year-round. Pairs mate in winter and produce a litter of about 4 pups in March or April after a gestation period of 53 days. Both parents guard and feed the young.

Fox populations are vulnerable to infectious diseases, especially rabies and canine distemper.

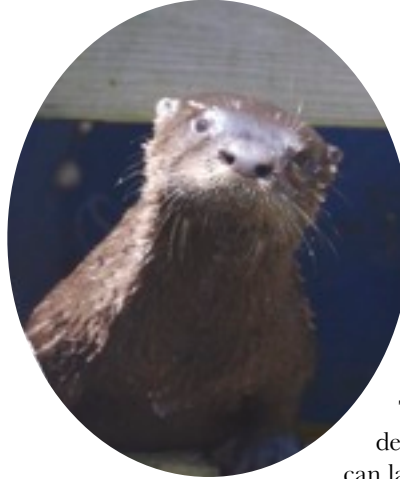
# Carnivores

## River Otter

These semi-aquatic, slender, long-bodied mammals are specialized for finding and capturing prey in the water. The broad flattened head has numerous stiff whiskers around the nose and snout, and these very sensitive tactile hairs are used for locating prey underwater. Otters have a long muscular tail, short stout legs and thick oiled fur. Small rounded ears and nostrils close when the otter is underwater. In Florida, river otters weigh 5-14 kg (11-31 lb). Males are larger than females.

River otters forage alone or in pairs. They are active during the day and at night, hunting in streams, rivers and ponds for fish, crayfish and turtles. Otters have a high metabolic rate, an adaptation for living in an aquatic environment where body heat is rapidly lost. They need to eat 15% of their body weight a day.

Although otters always remain in or near the water, they spend their inactive time in burrows dug into riverbanks or at other rest sites on land. Dens are located in shelters dug by other animals or natural hollows.



Otters are very vocal and have a large repertoire of calls. If you are canoeing on a quiet river or stream, their bird-like chirping contact calls will often be your first indication that otters are nearby.

They breed once a year and in Florida mating occurs in fall and winter.

Though the embryos actually develop for about 8 weeks, gestation can last for 11 to 12 months because of the extended period of delayed implantation.

Litters usually consist of 2-3 young, which are born fully furred. The young open their eyes after a month and are weaned at three months. They travel and feed with their mother until they are about a year old.

River otters are the most commonly encountered of Florida's mustelids; they are found throughout the state except the Keys. It is not uncommon to see an otter if you are canoeing or kayaking in one of central Florida's springs or rivers.

Because they move over large areas, otters often have to cross roads and are frequently seen as road kills.





# Insectivore

## Bats

Bats are some of the most misunderstood animals in Florida. Their nocturnal ways and habit of living in eerie places have made them the subject of folklore and superstition.

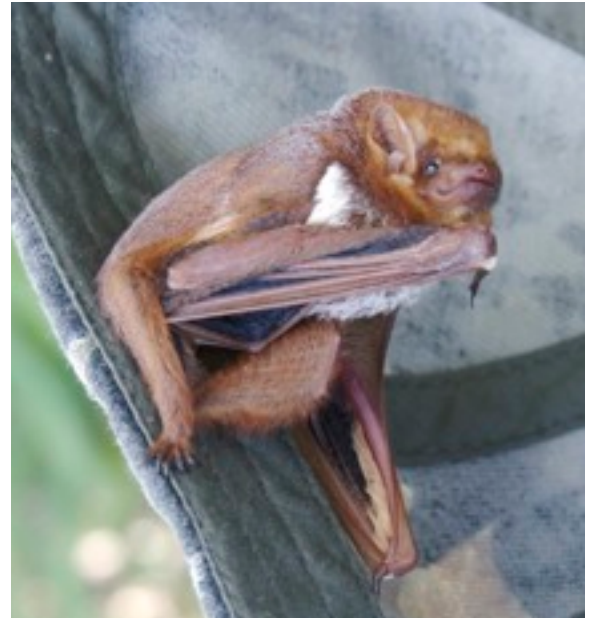
There are 18 different species of bats in Florida. Some are rare and only found in extreme south Florida. Others are quite common and can be seen on almost any warm night.

Bats have several unique adaptations. Bats use a form of echolocation to navigate at night. They emit ultrasonic noises (which we cannot hear) and listen for the echoes bouncing off objects. Using this they are able to avoid objects and catch flying insects. In addition to echolocation bats are the only mammals capable of true flight (flying squirrels glide but do not fly).

During the winter many northern bats migrate south and form large colonies in caves. In Florida bats become less active in the winter and will not emerge from their roost on cold nights.

Bats make valuable contributions to humans. All of the bats of the Florida mainland are insectivorous, meaning they eat insects. Many of the insects they eat are agricultural or human pests. A little brown bat can eat up to 600 mosquitoes an hour! Larger bats eat many moths which as larvae are major crop pests.

Most bats have slow reproductive rates. Many only produce one young a year. This combined with pesticides, destruction of habitat, and the disturbance of nesting colonies has led to a decline in many species of bats.



**The Seminole Bat is a canopy dwelling bat that often roosts in spanish moss during the day.**



**The University of Florida bat house in Gainesville Florida is the largest bat house in the world. More than 100,000 Brazilian Free-tailed Bats daily roost within it.**

**For more about the UF bat house**  
[Click Here](#)



## Herbivores

# White-tailed Deer

White-tailed deer live in almost every habitat type in Florida, but tend to be most abundant in deciduous forest and forest edge habitats. Deer are browsers, feeding on twigs and leaves, but they also graze on grasses, herbs and agricultural crops. They forage mainly at night, and it is common to see deer grazing beside major highways at night. Drivers beware!

White-tailed deer form several kinds of social groups, the most common of which is matrilineal, which includes a doe, her female offspring of previous years, and their fawns.

Females usually give birth to a single fawn, but if food is plentiful they will often have twins. Fawns are spotted and

- **Popular game animal**
- **Found throughout most of United States**

weigh about 3-4 kg (7-9 lb) at birth. The mother leaves them hidden in the vegetation for a week or two, but returns to nurse them several times a day. In this hiding phase, it is important not to approach or handle fawns. If you find a fawn lying down and it doesn't run away, please leave it alone. The fawn has NOT been abandoned; the mother is watching from somewhere close by.



# Herbivores

## Rabbits

### Eastern Cottontail

Cottontail rabbits are highly adaptable and thrive in practically all Florida habitats except dense forests and swampy areas. The rabbit seen in swamps in Florida is the marsh rabbit, which has an all-brown tail and is a uniformly dark, reddish-brown.

Rabbits are active mainly at night, but can often be seen feeding at dawn and dusk, and sometimes during the day when the weather is cloudy. They eat grasses, herbs and leaves.

Rabbits are famous for their high reproductive output, and the phrase 'breeds like a rabbit' is well founded. A short gestation period, large litters, rapidly developing young and several litters a year combine to make them the most fecund of mammals. In central and southern Florida rabbits breed year around, but in north Florida few young are born between November and February. Unlike European rabbits, which dig extensive warrens complete with maternity chambers, North American rabbits do not burrow. Females choose a well-



camouflaged spot to make a cup-shaped depression in the ground and line the nest with grass and soft breast fur. The nest is covered with grass while the female is away foraging.

Eastern cottontail rabbits give birth to 3-6 naked helpless young after a gestation period of 28 days. Female rabbits mate again immediately after giving birth, and they are often pregnant again while they nurse their litter. Young rabbits grow extremely fast. Their

eyes open and they are fully furred within a week, and by the end of a month they are weaned and ready to leave the nest. As soon as they are gone their mother is ready to deliver the next litter.

Females can breed when they are about six months old, and may have 7 to 12 litters a year.



### Marsh Rabbit

As its name suggests, the marsh rabbit is found only in marshy habitats, where water is plentiful. The marsh rabbit is slightly smaller and darker than the eastern cottontail and its tail forms a brown tuft (no cottontail). In south Florida it is found in sawgrass marshes, sugar-cane fields, mangrove swamps, and on canal banks. Marsh rabbits take to water readily and swim well, often for considerable distances. They are most active at night and eat a variety of wetland plants including water hyacinth, grasses, cattail, rushes and herbs



## Herbivores

# Wild Pigs

The European wild boar is the most widely distributed suid (pigs) in the world, thanks in part to introductions by colonial traders and immigrants. Spanish settlers first brought pigs to Florida in 1539, making Florida one of the earliest states and quite possibly the first state in the continental US to have a feral pig population. These feral pigs, also known as wild boar or wild hog, are highly regarded for their meat and are widely hunted.

Wild pigs are omnivores: they feed on mast (nuts), mushrooms, fruit, berries, and grass. They will also eat just about any type of animal life, including snakes, frogs, salamanders, ground-nesting birds, eggs, insects and carrion. The early settlers in Florida called them ‘piney woods rooters’, which recognizes the fact that pigs spend a lot of time rooting in the ground with their broad noses, looking for bulbs, tubers and anything else edible. An area recently rooted by pigs looks as if it has just been plowed.

Wild pigs cause serious damage to native fauna and flora. Orchids, lilies, and bog and swamp plants are particularly vulnerable to the rooting behavior of pigs. Salamanders and other native amphibians and reptiles are also extremely vulnerable, as many of these species live in moist soil, and under logs and stones — exactly the places where pigs forage. Despite efforts to eliminate them, the feral pig population in Florida is currently stable or expanding.



# Herbivores

# Squirrels

## Gray Squirrel

It's difficult NOT to see a gray squirrel in Florida. They are one of the most common and easy to see mammals. These bold, intelligent, tree-climbing creatures with a long, plume-like tail are everywhere, especially in gardens, zoos and parks. They are mainly seed-eaters, but will also eat fungi, berries and fruit. They forage in the trees and on the ground. Gray squirrels are prolific breeders.

In Florida they usually have at least two litters of up to six young per year, one between January and March, the second during June/July.



## Fox Squirrel

The fox squirrel, named for its striking fox-like tail, is the largest squirrel in the western hemisphere. Weighing in at about 1 kg, it is about twice the size of a gray squirrel. Fox squirrels are highly variable in color, and their coats can be anywhere from creamy tan to all black.

Fox squirrels prefer open park-like habitats with scattered mature pine trees and an open understory. Fire maintained longleaf pine-turkey oak sandhills are optimal habitat. In some parts of southwest Florida fox squirrels are quite abundant on golf courses that have retained patches of open pine-oak forest.

Fox squirrels are strictly diurnal, and usually do not begin foraging until mid-morning. Long leaf pine seeds and turkey oak and live oak acorns are among their favorite foods and they also eat fungi, buds, bulbs and insects. From May to October these squirrels cut green longleaf pine cones and strip off the bracts to get at the seeds. You can tell where a fox

squirrel has been feeding because of the large piles of cone pieces on the ground.

Fox squirrels use tree cavities for sleeping quarters and birth dens, but they also construct large leaf nests and stick nests in some areas. They are solitary, except during the breeding season, during which time mating chases sometimes occur. Several males will chase a female, competing for the opportunity to mate. Females conceive in November and 2-3 young are born in January. The young remain in the nest for about 75 days, and are weaned at 90 days.

Sadly, one of the most likely places to see a fox squirrel is on the side of the road as a roadkill. These big, beautiful squirrels are often hit by cars as they try to cross country roads. Sherman's Fox Squirrel and the Big Cypress Fox Squirrel are listed as threatened by Florida state authorities.

- The Sherman's Fox Squirrel, a threatened species, is found in West Central Florida.



# Herbivores

## Squirrels cont.

### Flying Squirrel

The flying squirrel is the only nocturnal member of the squirrel family in North America. Flying squirrels can sometimes be seen on bright moonlit nights as they glide from tree to tree, and they often reveal their presence by distinctive, high-pitched squeaks. Their large black eyes glow red in the light of a flashlight.

Flying squirrels are only capable of gliding – not true flight. Their ability to glide comes from patagium, a loose flap of skin attached along the side of the body from ankle to wrist. When the squirrel launches its self from a tree, it extends its legs out to the side, stretching the patagium to produce a broad gliding surface. A cartilage in the wrist and muscles within the patagium strengthen the edges and control the shape of the patagium while the animal is gliding. The broad flat tail acts as a stabilizer and rudder. They can bank and execute 90-degree turns, as well as lateral loops. Most glides range from 18 to 50 feet but adults often make glides of up to 160 feet; the record is about 100 yards. The habit of gliding is thought to have evolved as an extension of long-distance leaping from branch to branch.

These tiny squirrels forage mainly in the trees, feeding on nuts and seeds. They also eat insects, lichens, fungi, mushrooms, persimmons, wild grapes and tree bark. They appear to be a bit more carnivorous than other squirrels and will eat insects,

**Flying squirrel are not capable of true flight, rather they glide from tree to tree.**

bird eggs, nestlings and carrion. Like other squirrels they hoard acorns in crevices.

During cold weather flying squirrels do not hibernate but roost communally; two dozen or more will sometimes curl up together in a large tree cavity. They can reduce their metabolic rate and body temperature to conserve energy, and they benefit from one another's body heat.

Flying squirrels are found throughout Florida except in the Keys. They reach their highest densities in mature pine-oak woodlands and oak hammocks. They are also common in wooded urban parks and urban areas. In all habitats they need snags, or tree cavities for den sites. They will use birdhouses, or nest boxes, and sometimes move into attics.

Major predators include owls, snakes, raccoons and domestic cats.



Photo by Allan Hallman

# Herbivores

## Mice and Rats

Rats and mice are more numerous in Florida than you might think. These small, nocturnal animals live out their entire lives without being seen by human eyes.

Our native rodents are seldom the ones seen inside and around our houses. Those are the non-native ones, the black rat, and the house mouse. These have spread from Europe and now inhabit every continent except Antarctica.

**Cotton Rats** are found mainly in grassy habitats, where they can be very abundant. They are a major food item for many predators. Cotton rats are recognizable by their salt-and-pepper colored fur, large eyes and robust build. They are largely nocturnal. They eat roots, stems, leaves, fruits, nuts and sugar cane.

Cotton rats build a cup-shaped nest of woven grasses. They build well-defined runways that radiate in all directions from the nest site. You can tell a cotton rat runway by the piles of cut grass (2-3 in long pieces) placed along the runways.

**Old Field Mice** are found in northern and central Florida, in areas with sandy soil, and on grass covered beach dunes. They live in burrows, which they dig themselves. The burrows are usually about three feet deep with one or two chambers at the end, and each mouse may have as many as 20 burrows in its home range.

The species is unusual in that males and females have strong pair bonds and cooperate to raise the young. Females can give birth to a new litter every 30 days.

Oldfield mice eat seeds, acorns, beetles and ants.

The **Golden Mouse** is semi-arboreal and has a prehensile tail. The fur is golden or orangish cinnamon on the upperparts, while the underparts and feet are white, sometimes tinged with gold.

These tiny mice are especially common in dense woodlands with vines and heavy brush or palmettos, and habitats with thick undergrowth near water. Golden mice are quite arboreal, often nesting and foraging above the ground. They build feeding platforms in vines and Spanish



moss where they feed on seeds, nuts and berries

The golden mouse sometimes builds its nest in a clump of Spanish moss or use an old bird's nest.

### Cotton Mice



The **Florida mouse** is the State's only endemic mammal, meaning it is found nowhere else in the world. This mouse is a microhabitat specialist, centering its activities on gopher tortoise burrows in scrub or long leaf pine-turkey oak habitats. Florida

mice construct their own burrows within the larger burrow of the gopher tortoise. Each adult female mouse uses about two tortoise burrows, alternating her residency with successive litters. Their diet consists of crickets, ticks, fruit, seeds, and berries.