



Coyote



Raccoon



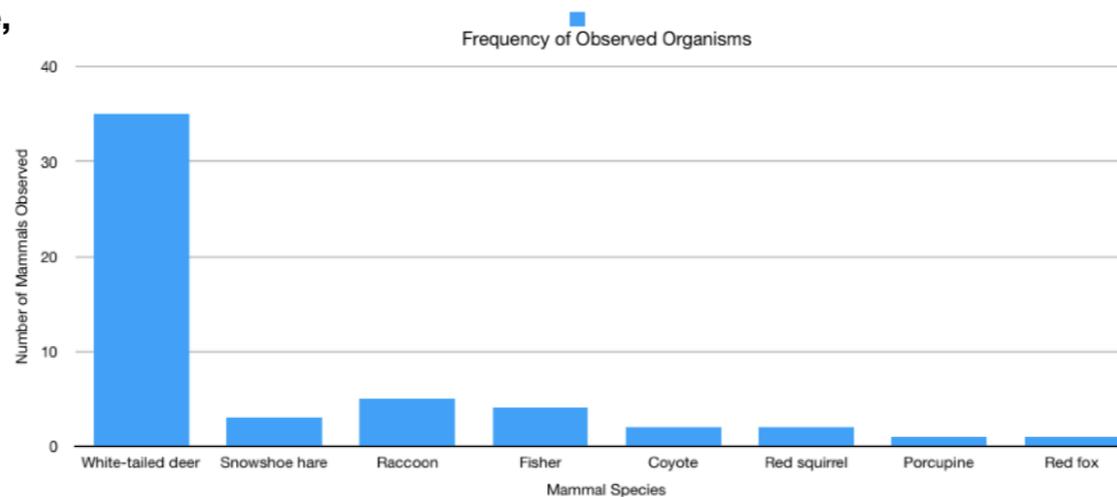
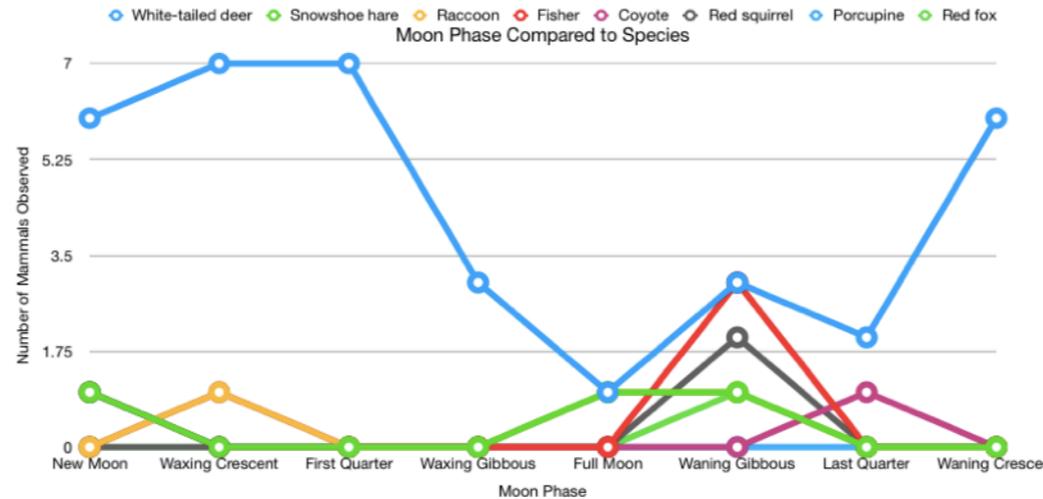
White-Tailed Deer



Fisher

Mammal Study at Cathance River Preserve

By: Caroline Thompson, Grace Trebilcock and Tristan Zell



PURPOSE
To determine the types of species of large mammals at Cathance River Preserve. To also determine the relationship between species and date, time of day, air temperature, and moon phase.

HYPOTHESIS
As the days become colder and shorter, there will be fewer mammal sightings. If it is dawn/dusk, then there will be more mammal activity. As the temperature shifts, the mammals that prefer that temperature will have more activity. If it is a full moon, there will be more mammal activity.

PROCEDURE

1. Set up 5 motion-sensitive cameras
2. Bait 3 of the cameras with skunk scent
3. Visit cameras once a week
4. Record any noticeable changes of the environment or any signs of mammals
5. Transfer pictures onto laptop
6. Record species, date, time, location, habitat, air temperature, and moon phase which all came from camera pictures
7. Enter data into data tables

- CONCLUSIONS AND ERRORS**
- The researchers observed a total of 56 mammals, most of which were white-tailed deer.
 - The time of year hypothesis was mostly disproved due to white-tailed deer being seen at a regular rate throughout the months and most of the mammals were spotted in October.
 - The mammal sightings were relatively even between dawn, dusk, day, and night, which disproved the time of day hypothesis.
 - The majority of the mammal sightings were between 0 to 15 degrees Celsius, which disproved the air temperature hypothesis.
 - Moon phases were found to influence mammal activity; mammals were more active around the Full Moon which proved the moon phase hypothesis.
 - Some sources of error included inconsistency in setting up cameras and baiting them.

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