



Biological Inventories at Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Importance of Natural Resource Inventories:

The primary role of the Heartland Network Inventory and Monitoring Program is to collect, organize, and make available natural resource data to park managers. It also contributes to the understanding of natural resources by transforming data into information through analysis, synthesis, and statistical modeling. These efforts result in improving park management through reliance on scientific knowledge.

The Heartland Network recently completed multiple inventories of vertebrate animal and vascular plant species at Cuyahoga Valley NP. Results of inventory projects include several reports, databases and voucher data. Non-sensitive reports, maps, and data sets are available at the Heartland Network web page, <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln/inventories.cfm>.

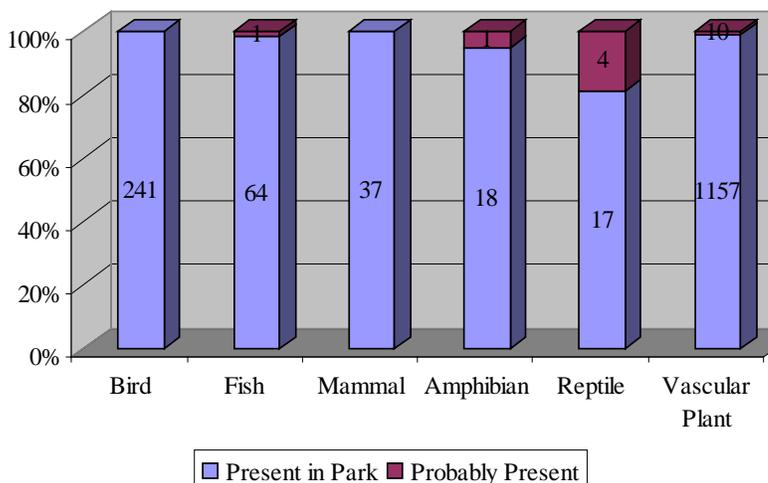


Inventory Methods:

The Inventory and Monitoring program provides twelve basic inventories for park managers, ranging from air quality inventories to lists of vascular plants and vertebrate animals within parks. Heartland Network has completed biological inventories identifying vascular plants and vertebrate animals at Cuyahoga Valley NP. Initially, scientists listed species of plants and animals that they would expect to find, based on available habitat, normal range of the species, and historical accounts. Then they initiated uniquely designed studies that would validate these lists and discover additional species.

Inventory Results¹:

The inventories confirmed 1,534 species as living within the park and an additional 16 that may occur at Cuyahoga Valley NP, but were not confirmed. Of the original species considered as potential residents, researchers could not confirm 92 as still resident. Scientists also categorized the abundance of 1,428 species that they confirmed as resident at Cuyahoga Valley NP. You can obtain species lists from the Natural Resource Information Portal at <http://nrinfo.nps.gov/Home.mvc>. Scientists also found that:



1. One hundred ten species at the park are of conservation concern, including the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Scientists identified several other species of concern as well.
2. Non-native species in the natural areas comprise 242 plant species, seven bird, two fish, one mammal, and three reptile species with 43 of the plant species ranking as a significant threat to native plant communities.

Heartland Network Inventory and Monitoring Program of the National Park Service. Visit <http://nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln>

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²Williams, M.H. 2009. An Evaluation of Biological Inventory Data Collected at Cuyahoga Valley National Park - Vertebrate and Vascular Plant Inventories. Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/2009/NRTR—2009/262. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.