

# CENTRAL PARK SQUIRRELS

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## SQUIRREL BEHAVIOR

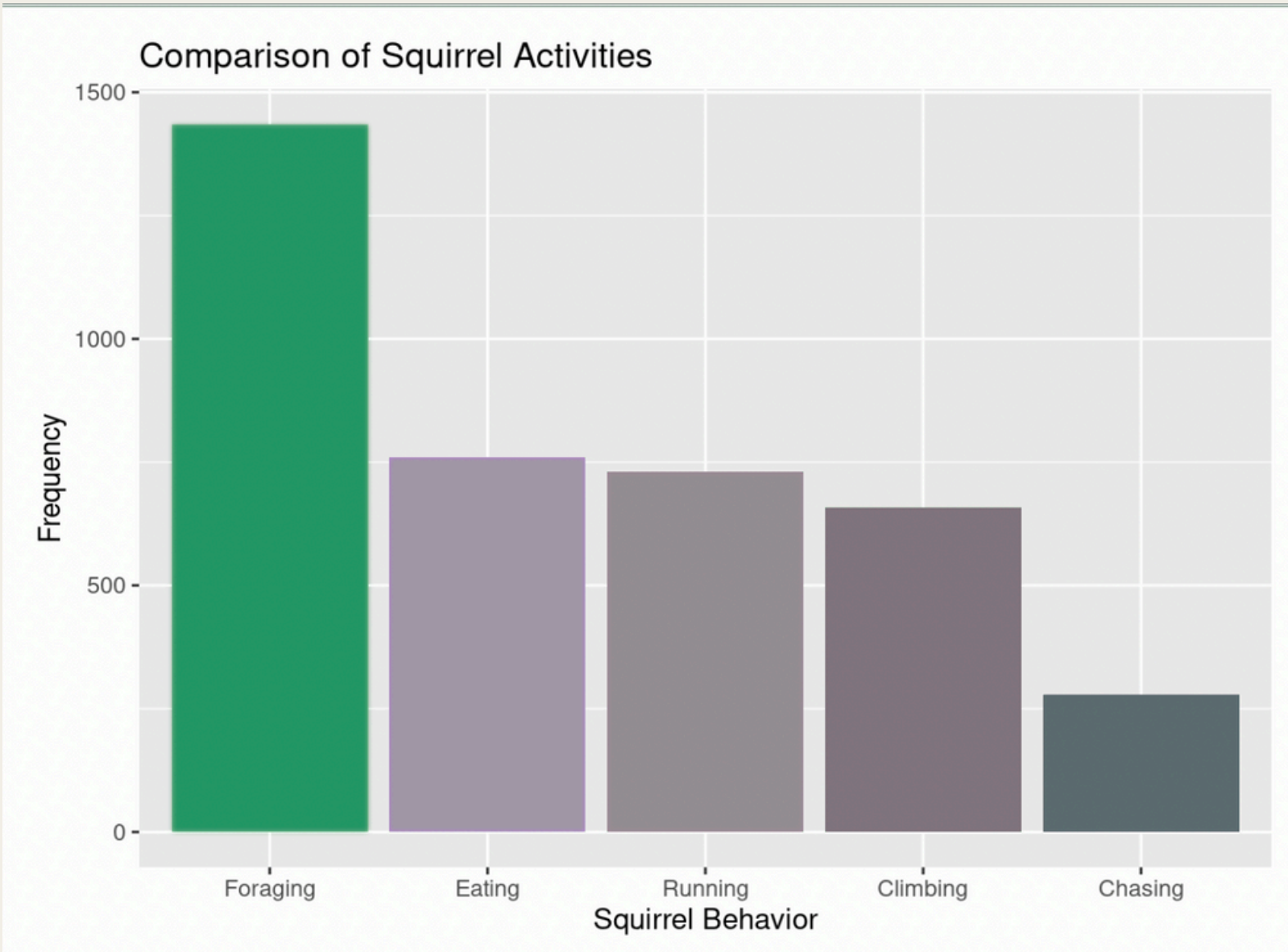
How do squirrels spend their time? Do some squirrels forage more than others? Do they interact with humans differently depending on the time of day? We used a lighthearted dataset from the City of New York to analyze Central Park squirrel behavior.



M  
A  
P

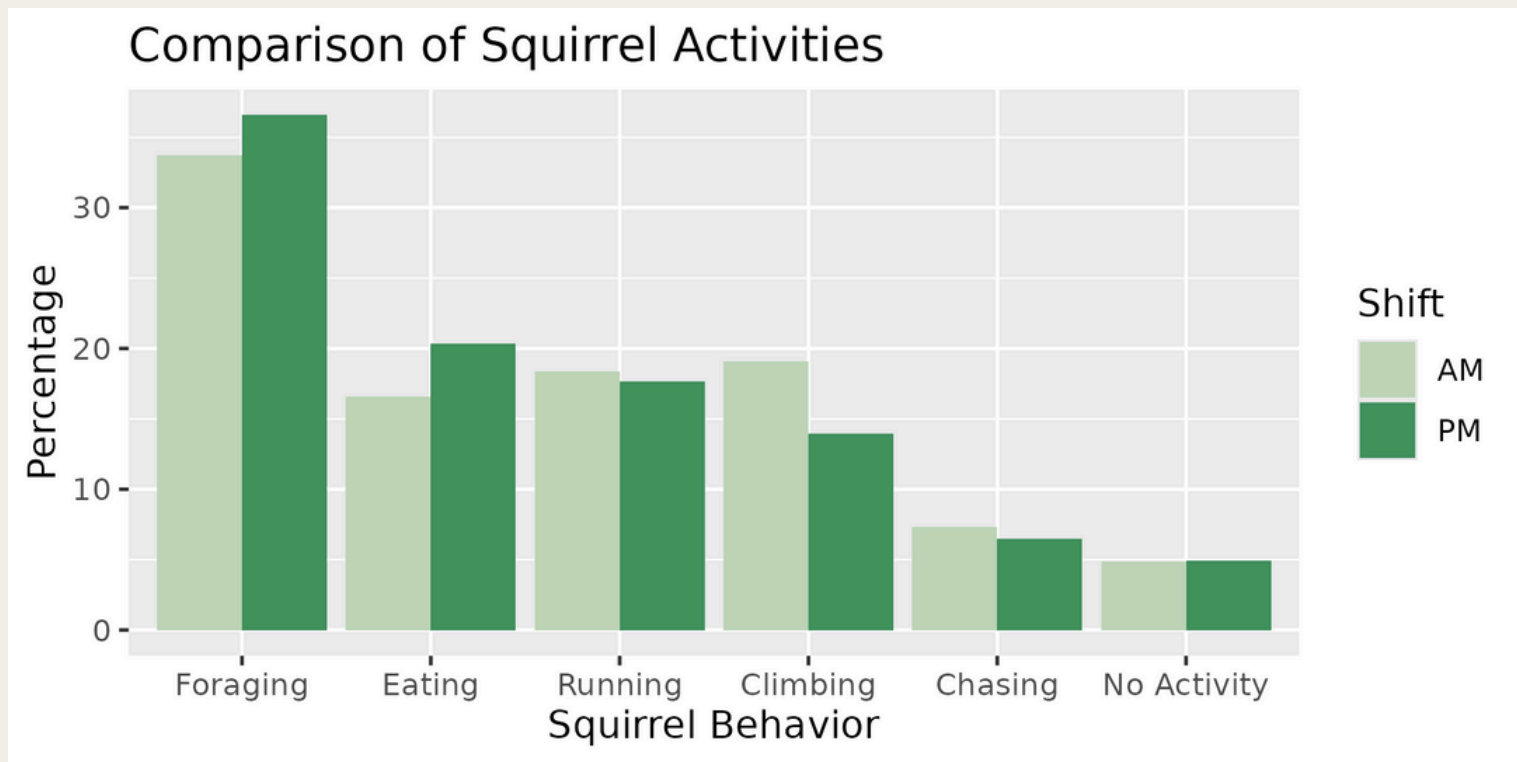
## MOST COMMON BEHAVIOR

This graph shows various behaviors of squirrels in Central Park. It is clear that foraging is the most observed behavior.

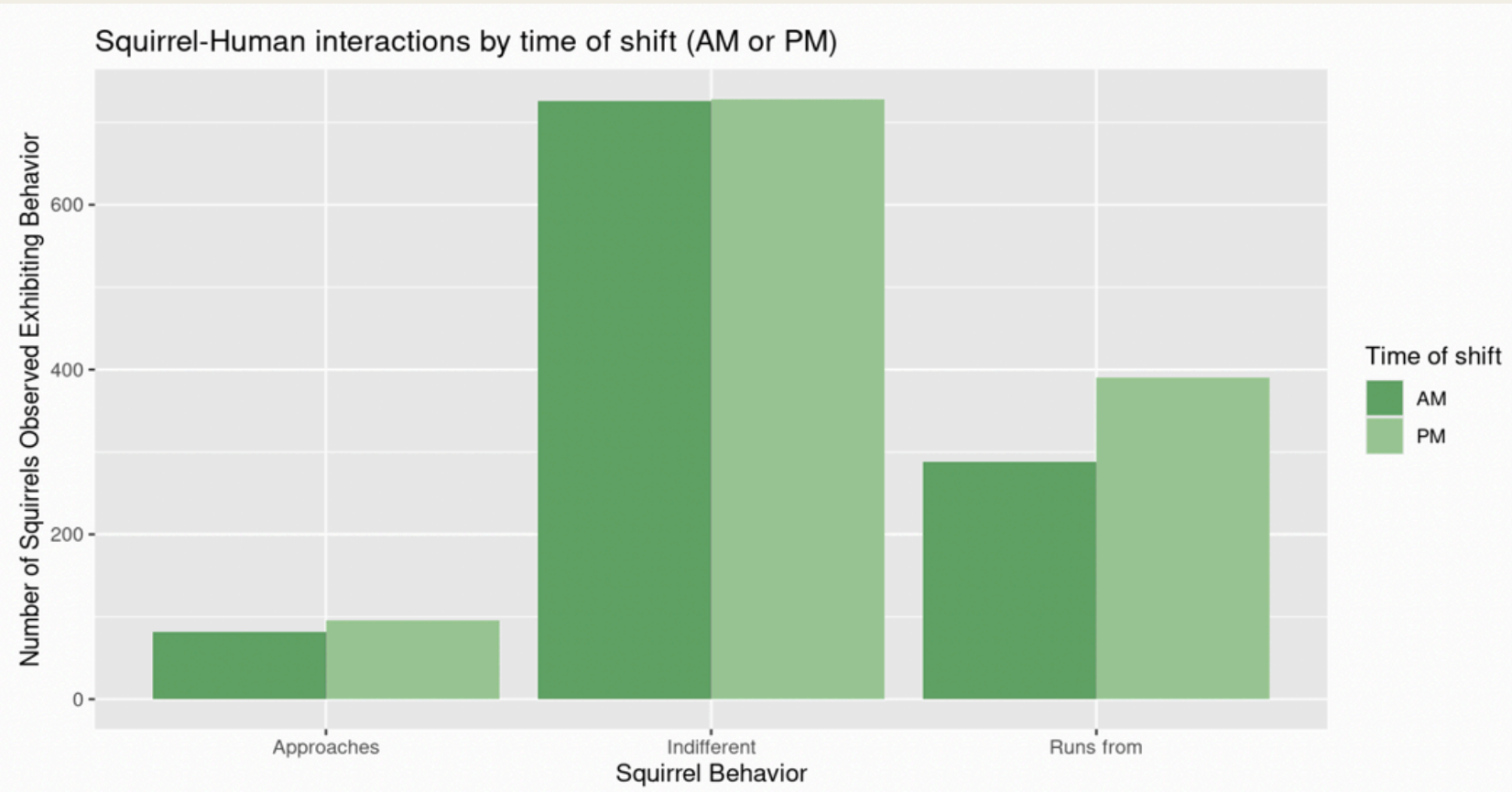


## TIME OF DAY

This extension of the first graph is shown as a percentage to account for the greater number of squirrels observed in the PM shift vs AM shift (see: Human Interaction). Foraging and eating were more common in the AM shift, while squirrels were more likely to run, chase, or climb in the PM shift rather than the AM shift.



## HUMAN INTERACTION



## THE DATA

The Squirrel Census is a project that was first undertaken in October 2018, when a group of volunteers gathered to collect data on the squirrels of New York City's Central Park. The volunteers observed the squirrels' locations, physical characteristics, and behaviors. Another dataset was later compiled of squirrels in NYC's other parks.



Squirrels were observed to be largely indifferent to humans, sometimes running away, and rarely ever approaching humans. The main difference is that squirrels appear to run from humans more often in the PM shift. We hypothesize that this could be due to a greater number of people or more noise in the PM shift.

