SquirrelMapper

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Independent Research

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Introduction

This project is intended to help researchers know study why the black morph declined and its reason behind lingering in cities, whether it will return to countrysides, and will animals like squirrel be able to adapt to rapidly changing environment.(Zooniverse. (2025). [Research | SquirrelMapper | Zooniverse - People-powered research](#)) In this study, I have classified 100 images, tracking required information regarding those. I chose to do the *Just Fox Squirrels* workflow.

The SquirrelMapper project at Zooniverse has two components:

1. **Classify the coat color:** This will let the researchers identify its habitants and determine which morph occurs more often where. This information can help understand how quickly squirrels and its similar mammals, can adapt to changing habitants.

2. **Classify the types of predators that occur where they have photographed the squirrels:** Since coloration affect how visible animals are to their predators, the classification of predators at sites with squirrels, the volunteers can help the researchers understand whether predators shape the way squirrel coat color evolves. .(Zooniverse. (2025). [Research | SquirrelMapper | Zooniverse - People-powered research](#))

Methods

Volunteers has to answer a few questions regarding the images: How many squirrels are there? What is their color? On what surface are they on? Are they alive or dead? (In case of only 1 squirrel)

In this project, observations on 100 images were recorded on Google sheet, and then organized properly in this paper.
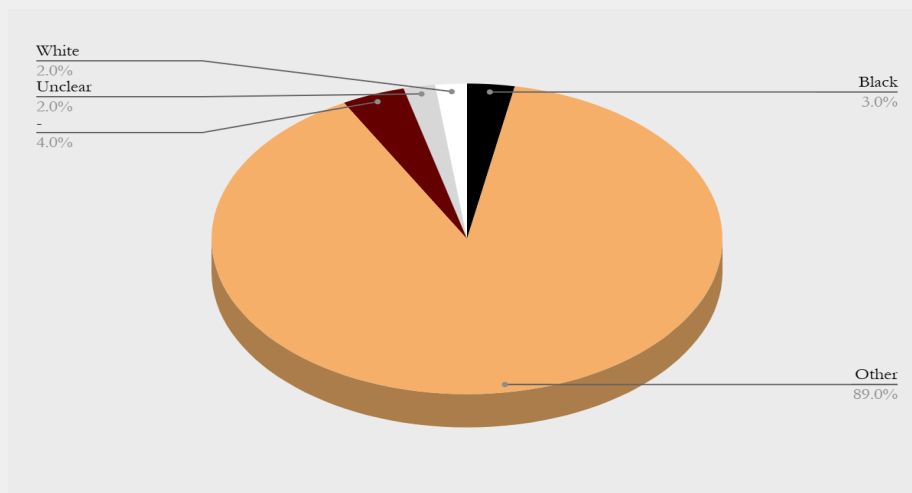
Results

The Number of the Squirrels

Squirrels found in most images were only 1 with occasional 0 or 2.

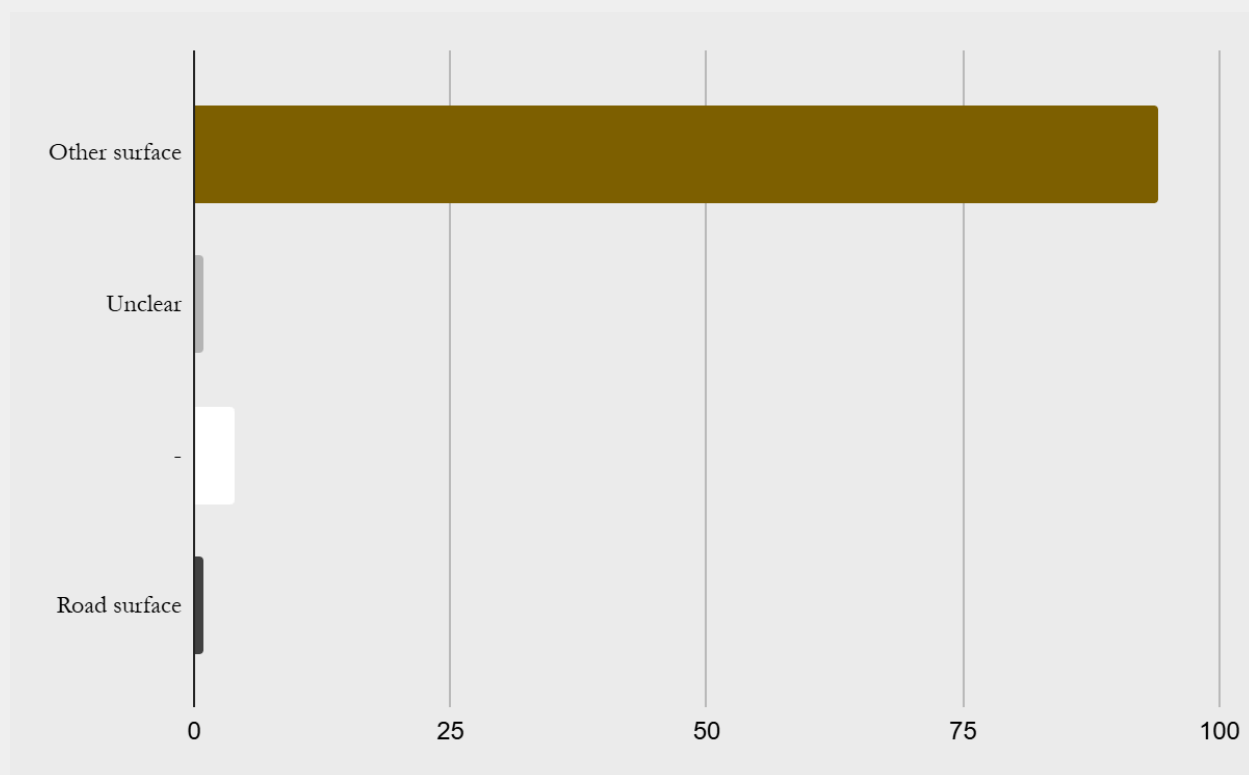## The Color of the Squirrels

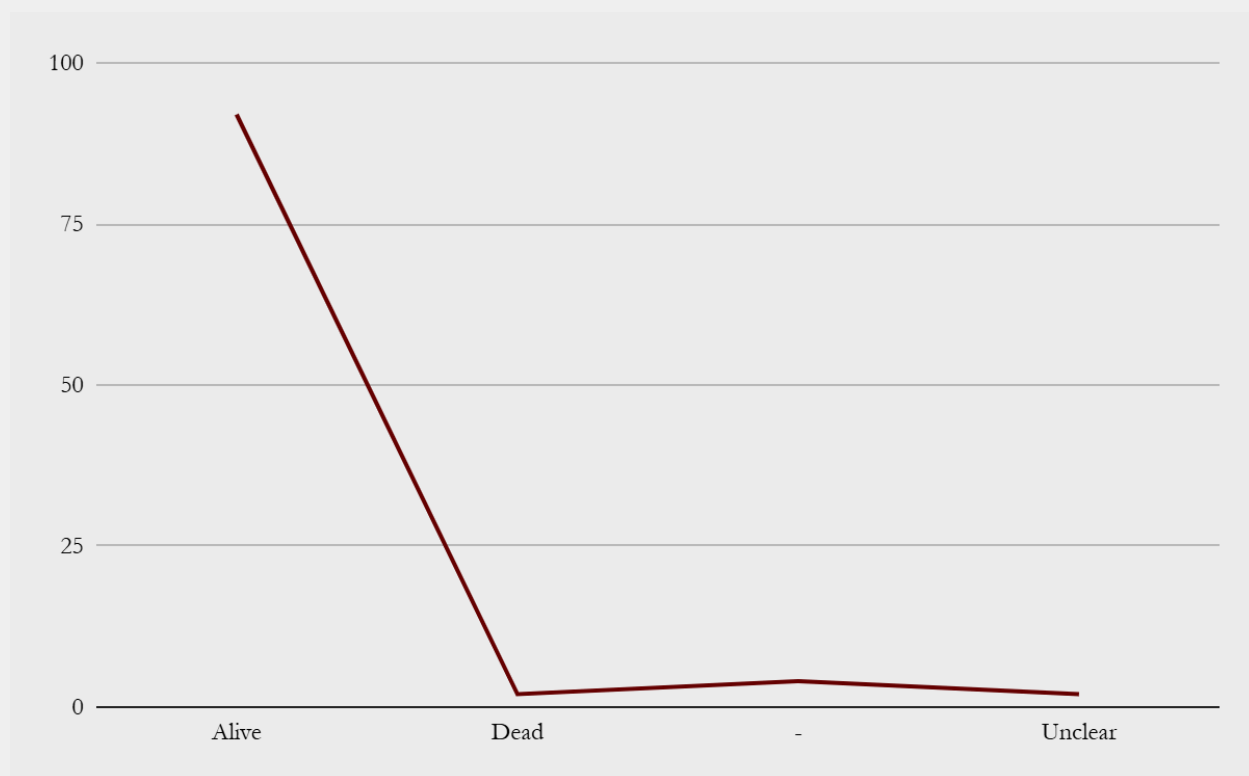*Other* means neither black or white in here. I mostly used it mostly for brown color.

White and black squirrels rarely appeared, most being brownish.

The Surface They were Found on

Other surfaces were mostly grass, trees, backyard, etc.

Alive or Dead

- is for images absent of squirrels.

Discussion

Brown squirrels were most observed with their number being typically 1. Most squirrels were alive. However, the dead ones were often on roads, indicating their death due to cars, which have been mentioned by the research team (Zooniverse. (2025). Research | SquirrelMapper | Zooniverse - People-powered research)

Classifications from this project would help get researchers get answers to previous stated study topics (In the *Introduction*) and measure evolution in action.