Enid Roman Data 602 Final Project

2018 Central Park Squirrel Census – Squirrel Data

**Abstract**

The present study, The Squirrel Census (<https://www.thesquirrelcensus.com/>), is a multimedia science, design, and storytelling project focusing on the Eastern gray (Sciurus carolinensis). They count squirrels and present their findings to the public. This data contains squirrel data for each of the 3,023 sightings, including location coordinates, age, primary and secondary fur color, elevation, activities, communications, and interactions between squirrels and with humans.

I find this data interesting because it analyzes the different types of squirrels and their behaviors.

In my analysis I wanted to find out how many squirrels were adult and juvenile age, their primary fur color, their activities, communications, foraging and behavior by age, interactions between squirrels and humans, the type of noise they make, how many squirrels were seen each day during the analysis and how many were seen in the am and pm.

In my analysis I used different libraries such as Pandas Library, Numpy Library, Matplotlib Library, Seaborn Library, and Pyplot Library.

To conduct my analysis, I performed EDA and Summary Statistic, some data wrangling, and Data Exploration.

The analysis indicates that squirrels are even more abundant in Central Park. From the analysis we know that not many squirrels approached humans, more ran from humans, and about half of squirrels were indifferent from humans. The least common activity of the five activities was chasing, perhaps because observers would need to see at least two squirrels together in order for this behavior to play out.   This lack of predation is also reflected in the age distribution of squirrels where there are a significant number of adults being observed in the park. Most squirrels identified in Central Park were of adult-age (1+ year), with approximately 11% identified as juvenile based on size, fur color, and pigmentation. The data for the squirrel census was collected over a 14-day period starting October 6th, 2018. Most observations were recorded towards the beginning of the month and on October 13th and 14th. In addition to recording the date, time of day was also recorded for each of the observation (AM or PM). Recordings tend to be in the afternoon/evening. The data was limited as we can’t identify what time exactly in the PM the data was collected, but it can be assumed that it was recorded prior to sunset.