

WILDLIFE OF CALIFORNIA

WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE FOR

BSA TROOP 483

GLENDORA, CA



PHOTO LISTING

1. Band-tailed Pigeon
2. Coyote
3. Gray Fox
4. Porcupine
5. California or Valley Quail
6. Ringtail or Ringtail Cat
7. Raccoon
8. Pronghorn or Pronghorn Antelope
9. Mule Deer
10. Black Bear
11. Red Shouldered Hawk
12. Roadrunner
13. Opossum or Virginia Opossum
14. Gray Squirrel
15. Bighorn Sheep
16. Golden Mantled Ground Squirrel
17. California Kingsnake
18. Brown Pelican
19. Steller's Jay
20. Mountain Lion, Puma, Panther
21. Gopher Snake
22. Bobcat
23. Great Blue Heron
24. Skunk
25. Great Horned Owl
26. Mourning dove
27. Ground Squirrel
28. Yellow Bellied Marmot
29. Red Fox
30. California Mountain Kingsnake
31. Badger
32. Red-tailed Hawk
33. Scrub Jay
34. Beaver
35. Elk
36. Black-tailed Jackrabbit
37. Raven
38. Rosy Boa
39. Cottontail Rabbit
40. Chipmunk

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Opossum

Looks like a large rat. The opossum is the only marsupial native to North America. They raise their young in a pouch like a kangaroo. Their prehensile tail lets them hang from branches in trees. When threatened they play dead to trick their attacker.

“Wake me up when you’re done.”



Gray Squirrel

These are the squirrels you see in the mountains living in trees. They can be very noisy at times. You can tell them from other squirrels because of their color and bushy tail.

“Okay, So who’s the nut around here?”



Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn Sheep inhabits the high mountains and deserts of California. These are one of the favorite foods of the Mountain Lion. They have large horns and the male sheep will fight over a female by butting their heads together in battle. “Oh... I have a splitting headache!”



Golden Mantled Ground Squirrel

Look for these squirrels in the mountains. Sometimes they are called chipmunks but in reality they are larger than a chipmunk. They are usually pretty friendly, but don’t feed them, they can bite and can carry a variety of diseases.



Band-tailed Pigeon

Migratory bird that spends most of its winter in Southern California. Look for them in the oak trees when you are in the mountains. You can tell them from domestic pigeons by the white stripe on the back of their neck.



Valley Quail

Listen for quail when you are hiking in the morning and late afternoon. Their call sounds like they are saying “CHI-CA-GO”. Also called the California Quail because it is the state bird of California



Mule Deer

Mule deer are named for their large ears. They are also the only deer that runs in a bounding gait with all four feet together. This is called ‘stotting’. Male deer have antlers made of bone that are shed and regrown every year.



Pronghorn

Pronghorn are the fastest mammal in North America. They can run more than 50 miles an hour. They shed and grow new horns each year. They live in a grassland/prairie environment.



Gray Fox

The gray fox is the smaller cousin to the red fox. Slightly larger than a large house cat, it roams freely around the mountains and foothills of California in search of small mammals to make a meal from.



Red Shouldered Hawk

A medium size soaring hawk. They are very noisy in the spring during mating. They make a high pitched “kee-kee-kee-kee-kee”. Their diet consists of small reptiles and rodents.



Raccoon

You’ll usually see a raccoon at night looking for food. They will eat just about anything. They have a thumb that is like a human and can use it to grasp things. “Hev what’s for dinner?”



Roadrunner

Roadrunner’s live in desert and chaparral environments. They eat snakes, lizards and insects. They are about a foot tall.
Beep..Beep!



Ringtail

The ringtail is a quiet nighttime dweller. They are common in their range, but few people ever see a ringtail. These are smaller animals a little larger than a squirrel.



Coyote

The coyote is VERY adaptable. Once only found in the West now they can be found across the United States. You can hear the coyote's howling at night when they communicate with each other. "Yip..Yip.. Yeowwww!"



Porcupine

This animal is mainly nocturnal. They have ten's of thousands of quills on their body they use for defense. Ouch!



Black Bear

Black bears are the only species of bear in the wild in California. They can be black, brown, blonde or cinnamon in color. These bears are omnivorous which means they eat plants and animals, but most of their diet consists of berries and bugs. ...yum..yum..yum.



California Kingsnake

The California Kingsnake can be banded black and white like the picture or they can be all black or albino white and pink bands. The kingsnake is NOT poisonous. Kingsnakes eat other reptiles including rattlesnakes as well as small rodents.



Steller's Jay

This noisy bird lives throughout the mountains in California and other states. They collect food and bury it in secret places, places so secret they even forget where it is.

“now let's see... was it here, no.. here, no... here...”



Brown Pelican

You can see these large birds when you go to the beach. They dive into the ocean after fish and scoop them up in their oversized bill.

“Splish, splash I was look'in for a fish”



Mountain Lion

Mountain lions are also called puma, panther, painter. They are very secretive and don't like being seen. An adult mountain lion dines on deer and bighorn sheep as well as smaller animals like rabbits and squirrels. Mountain lions take a deer or sheep for food about every 7 to 10 days. Remember to stay in groups when you hike in mountain lion country. If you are confronted by a mountain lion make yourself look big and don't run away. Back away s-l-o-w-l-y.



Gopher Snake

Gopher snakes are often mistaken for rattlesnakes and killed. This snake is NOT poisonous. The gopher snake usually has small squares on his back. Rattlesnakes usually have diamond shapes on their back. Sometimes the gopher snake will shake its tail in the leaves to make you think he's a rattler.. "See I'm tough!"



Striped Skunk

Wow! Whats that smell!!! Oh, it's just a skunk telling something or some one to leave it alone. We have lots of skunks all over California n the mountains and cities



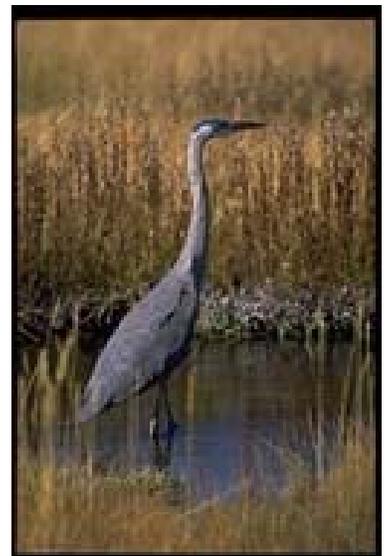
Bobcat

Look at that tail. Do you suppose he got his name from his short tail? Bobcats are about the size on a medium dog, around 40 lbs avg. They like to chase rabbits and squirrels and stay out of the way of people. The backs of their ears are black and white and look like eyes.



Great Blue Heron

These extra tall bird live in wet, swampy areas along rivers and lakes. They eat small fish and crustaceans. You can watch then hunt in the water as they slowly walk along looking for unsuspecting fish to grab with their long beak.



Great Horned Owl

Check out the eyes Great Horned Owls can see in almost complete darkness. They also have some of the strongest talons of any bird of prey. Because of the construction of their feathers, when an owl flies it make little or no sound. That lets them sneak up on unsuspecting prey. That leads to the famous last words of a field mouse “I never heard it coming!”



Ground Squirrel

These squirrels are different from the tree squirrels. They live in holes in the ground. Ranchers have problems with them because the cows step in the holes and break their legs. They make a chirping noise when they call to each other or are alarmed.



Yellow-bellied Marmot

Next time your in the high-country look for these oversized rodents. They inhabit rocky areas in the mountains. Watch your lunch they aren't real shy and don't mind taking your meal if you aren't paying attention. “Yo, what's for lunch?”



Mourning Dove

This dove gets it's name from the mournful call they make. Mourning doves are migratory bird and like hot areas. When the weather turns cold they turn around and head to warmer climates. “Hey, would somebody turn up the heat around here, I'm freeezzing!”



Red Fox

Most species of red foxes are not native of California. They can adapt to lots of habitats. They eat rodents and other small animals.



California Mountain Kingsnake

A cousin of the California Kingsnake the California Mountain Kingsnake has red, yellow and black bands. Cal Mtn Kingsnakes are very helpful in the wild. Sometimes confused with a coral snake this snake is NOT poisonous. Remember: “Red touches yellow kill a fellow. Red touches black venom lack.”



Badger

These animals live in small dens they dig in the ground. Sometimes known for having a bad day they can be very good fighters. Most of the time though they just want to, “Get away from it all.”



Red-tailed Hawk

Red-tailed hawk provide many of the sound effects for the birds of prey shown on television. Their screeching call can be heard for quite a distance. These are very common hawks in California. As with all birds of prey Red-tailed hawks are protected by law.



Scrub Jay

Scrub Jay's look like a Stellar's Jay without the topknot. They usually live in the scrub areas of the foothills and lower elevations of the mountains.



Elk

Known to the American Indians as "Wapiti" these large deer inhabit grasslands and mountain terrain. Listen for their whistle like call followed by several deep grunts in the fall. Look at those antlers... they grow a new set every year.



Black-tailed Jackrabbit

Jackrabbits are not rabbits, they are hares. They live in brushy areas all over the state. They eat many types of vegetation. Because they are hares and not rabbits their young are born with hair. They live in shallow depressions under vegetation not in holes like rabbits.



Beaver

Beavers are like animal chainsaws. They can cut trees of all sizes to use in their dams and lodges. Humm what sounds good for lunch? Aspen? Willow? Cottonwood? Or maybe some tender cattails?



Raven

No it's not a crow. Ravens are larger than crows and live mostly in the mountains and the deserts. Crows live in lowland and farm like areas.
Quote the raven "Never more".



Rosy Boa

This native snake kills its prey by constriction. It is NOT poisonous. If you see one leave it be, it helps keep the rodent population under control.



Cottontail Rabbit

These rabbits live in brushy areas. They eat many types of vegetation. They are true rabbits and live in dens in the ground.
Their young are born hairless.



Chipmunk

These small mammals live in many of the local mountains. They collect and eat seeds, nuts and berries.
Hey, Chip have you seen Dale lately?

