

Santa Clara Valley Wildlife at a Glance



Get to know
local animals!



OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY
SANTA CLARA VALLEY

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INTRODUCTION

Open Space Authority preserves are yours to explore and enjoy! Santa Clara Valley is surrounded by lush landscapes abundant with wildlife, plants and natural beauty for everyone to appreciate.

This guide is your key to discovering a variety of fascinating creatures that live within Santa Clara Valley's open spaces. Use it as a tool to identify these unique animals and keep a record of every species that you see!

The animals in this guide are only a sampling of the thousands of wildlife species native to Santa Clara Valley! We hope it inspires you to continue learning about the important and diverse animals we share this region with.



ABOUT US

Mission

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture and connects people to nature, by protecting open spaces, natural areas and working farms and ranches for future generations. We proudly serve the cities of San José, Campbell, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Morgan Hill and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County.

Our work

Since our founding in 1993, we have protected over 30,000 acres of natural and working lands for public benefit.

How we're funded

The Open Space Authority is funded primarily through a \$24 per year parcel tax (Measure T) and a \$12 per year parcel benefit assessment (District 1) to help make the benefits of nature available to all.

Your open spaces

The Open Space Authority manages Coyote Valley, Sierra Vista, Rancho Cañada del Oro and Máyyan 'Ooyákma - Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserves. Entry to all preserves and events is always free! To learn more about these open space preserves, visit our website: openspaceauthority.org/preserves



RESPECTING NATURE

When you visit a park or open space, you step into the home of a variety of plants and animals. Every creature plays an important role in the ecosystem and it's crucial to treat them with respect. Here are some tips for exploring with curiosity and care:



- Keep a respectful distance from all wildlife.
- Stay present and aware of your surroundings.
- Learn about different wildlife species you may encounter (this field guide is a great start)!
- Make yourself known to nearby animals (hum a tune, emphasize your steps, use a hiking pole).
- Keep children close and within sight.
- Hike with a friend or in a group for safety and shared experience.
- Stay on designated trails for the safety of yourself and sensitive habitats.
- Leave no trace by packing out everything you bring in, including trash!



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Use this key to learn more about the wildlife featured in this guide. The symbols below provide details about each animal's diet, habitat, behavior and other key characteristics. Use the checkboxes next to each animal to keep track of the species you spot in nature!



Diurnal

Mostly active during the day.



Nocturnal

Mostly active at night.



Crepuscular

Mostly active during dawn and dusk.



Omnivore

Eats both plants and animals.



Herbivore

Primarily eats plants.



Carnivore

Primarily eats other animals.



Rare sightings

Not often seen in person.



Endemic

Found in California and nowhere else in the world.



Threatened

These animals need extra protection and are at risk of extinction.



Bioindicator

This animal helps scientists understand the health of the environment.



Invasive pest

A non-native species that harms local wildlife or habitats (see page 11 for more information).

Scientific name

Two-part, universal names used by scientists to describe living things. Usually derived from Latin or Greek. Example: *Felis catus* is the scientific name for domestic cat.

BIRDS

The Santa Clara Valley has over 400 species of birds! Here are some of our favorites.



Horned lark

Eremophila alpestris



Western bluebird

Sialia mexicana



Western meadowlark

Sturnella neglecta



Red-winged blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus



Yellow-billed magpie

Pica nuttalli



American crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos



California quail

Callipepla californica



Acorn woodpecker

Melanerpes formicivorus



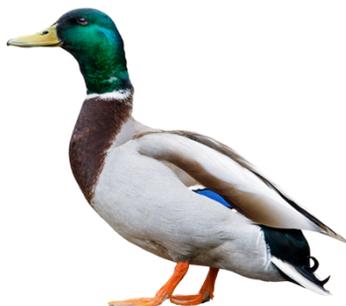
Anna's hummingbird

Calypte anna



Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus



Mallard duck

Anas platyrhynchos



Great egret

Ardea alba



Great blue heron

Ardea herodias



BIRDS



Northern saw-whet owl
Aegolius acadicus



Burrowing owl
Athene cunicularia



Barn owl
Tyto alba



Great horned owl
Bubo virginianus



American kestrel
Falco sparverius



White-tailed kite
Elanus leucurus



Red-tailed hawk
Buteo jamaicensis



Osprey
Pandion haliaetus



Turkey vulture
Cathartes aura



Bald eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus



Golden eagle
Aquila chrysaetos



MAMMALS

California has over 200 listed mammal species. Discover 23 of them that you can find here in the Santa Clara Valley.



Pallid bat
Antrozous pallidus



Big brown bat
Eptesicus fuscus



Silver-haired bat
Lasionycteris noctivagans



California vole
Microtus californicus



Northern broad-footed mole
Scapanus latimanus



Dusky-footed woodrat
Neotoma fuscipes



California ground squirrel
Otospermophilus beecheyi



Desert cottontail
Sylvilagus audubonii



Western gray squirrel
Sciurus griseus



Eastern gray squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis



Striped skunk
Mephitis mephitis



Raccoon
Procyon lotor



American badger
Taxidea taxus



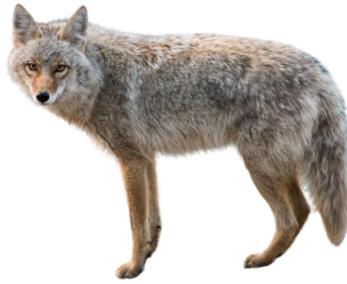
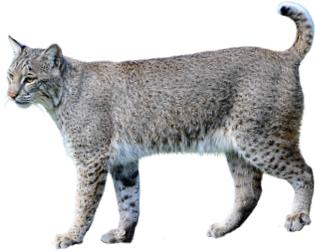
Black-tailed jackrabbit
Lepus californicus



Virginia opossum
Didelphis virginiana



MAMMALS



Gray fox
Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Bobcat
Lynx rufus

Coyote
Canis latrans

Mountain lion
Felis concolor



North American beaver
Castor canadensis

Feral pig
Sus scrofa



Black-tailed deer
Odocoileus hemionus

Tule elk
Cervus canadensis nannodes



INVERTEBRATES

Our region is exceptionally rich in invertebrates, with species estimates ranging in the tens of thousands! Discover a selection of our favorites below.



Darkling beetle
Tenebrionidae



Valley carpenter bee
Xylocopa sonorina



Yellow-faced bumblebee
Bombus vosnesenskii



Common green darner
Anax junius



Vivid dancer
Argia vivida



Common buckeye
Junonia coenia



Bay checkerspot butterfly
Euphydryas editha bayensis



Western monarch butterfly
Danaus plexippus



Western tiger swallowtail
Papilio rutulus



California oak moth
Phryganidia californica



Forest tent caterpillar moth
Malacosoma disstria



Achemon sphinx moth
Eumorpha achemon



Polyphemus moth
Antheraea polyphemus



Banded garden spider
Argiope trifasciata



Western forest scorpion
Uroctonus mordax



Ebony tarantula
Aphonopelma eutylenum



California banana slug
Ariolimax californicus



AMPHIBIANS

Meet a selection of our favorite amphibians. The Santa Clara Valley has 15 native species total!



Yellow-eyed ensatina
Ensatina eschscholtzii xanthoptica



Arboreal salamander
Aneides lugubris



California newt
Taricha torosa



California tiger salamander
Ambystoma californiense



Sierran tree frog
Pseudacris sierra



California toad
Anaxyrus boreas halophilus



Foothill yellow-legged frog
Rana boylei



California red-legged frog
Rana draytonii



American bullfrog
Lithobates catesbeianus



REPTILES

Our native reptiles include 18 species of snakes, 10 species of lizards and one freshwater turtle. These eight species represent a sample of this biodiversity!



Western fence lizard
Sceloporus occidentalis



Southern alligator lizard
Elgaria multicarinata



Northwestern pond turtle
Actinemys marmorata



Red-eared slider
Trachemys scripta elegans



Garter snake
Thamnophis sirtalis



California kingsnake
Lampropeltis californiae



Gopher snake
Pituophis catenifer



Northern Pacific rattlesnake
Crotalus oreganus



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Invasive pests

Non-native animals in Santa Clara Valley are species that do not naturally occur here and were brought to the region, either by purpose or by accident. Many non-native species compete for resources with local wildlife, which causes harm to native populations, habitats and ecosystems. As part of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's mission to restore and manage natural landscapes, we work to control non-native populations to limit their impacts and risks.

Connect with us



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Santa Clara Valley Open
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