

Oak Woodlands & Redwood Forests on Youtube

Grades 5-8



Species: ground squirrel, badger, various species of Oak, scrub jay,

Grades K-5

Species mentioned: Black Widow, Millipede, Scrub Jay, termites, mistletoe, bullfrog, pollywog, salamander



Grades 5-8

Species/: Trout, redwoods, banana slugs



Grades K-5

Species: Buckeye tree, seagulls, banana slug



Ground Squirrel

What they eat:

Their diet is primarily seed-based, including barley, oats, and acorns. They eat eggs, insects, roots, tubers, seeds, grains, nuts and fruit.

Behavior:

California ground squirrels use their cheek pouches to collect extra food. Like gray squirrels, they cache or store food for future use.

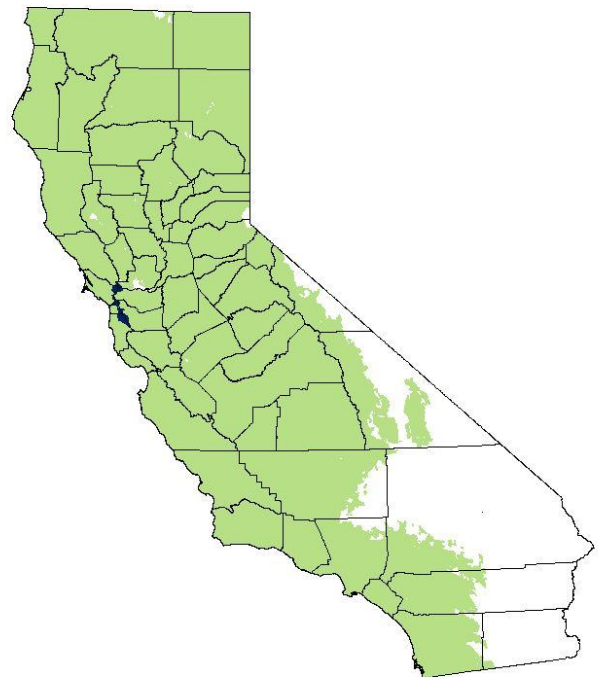
California ground squirrels use a variety of sounds. They make a high-pitched alarm call when they feel threatened.

California ground squirrels live on the ground and in burrows.

- California Ground Squirrels can live up to 6 years in the wild.
- They give a high pitched alarm call to warn others of predators.
- They create habitat for other animals, such as rodents and snakes, which occupy empty burrows.
- Their predators are red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, coyote, fox, badgers, weasels, house cats, dogs, and snakes.



California Ground Squirrels are found from central Washington through western Oregon, California and into the northern part of Baja California. The squirrel is found in plains, small meadows, tree-covered hillsides, and rocky outcrops.



Golden Eagle

COMMON NAME: Golden Eagle

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aquila chrysaetos*

TYPE: Birds

DIET: Carnivores

AVERAGE LIFE-SPAN IN THE WILD:
30 years

SIZE: 33 to 38 in; wingspan, 6 to 7.5 ft

WEIGHT: 6 to 15 lbs

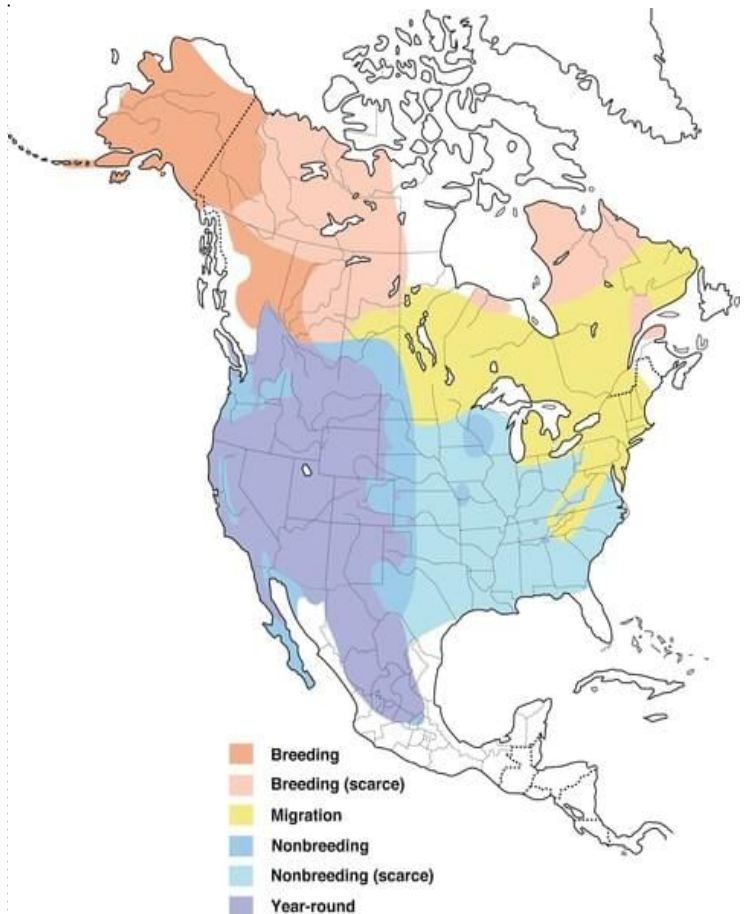


Golden Eagles are one of the largest birds in North America. The wings are broad like a Red-tailed Hawk's, but longer. At distance, the head is relatively small and the tail is long.

Adult Golden Eagles are dark brown with a golden sheen on the back of the head and neck. For their first several years of life, young birds have neatly defined white patches at the base of the tail and in the wings.

Usually found alone or in pairs, Golden Eagles typically soar or glide with wings lifted into a slight "V" and the wingtip feathers spread like fingers. They capture prey on or near the ground, locating it by soaring, flying low over the ground, or hunting from a perch.

Golden Eagles favor partially or completely open country, especially around mountains, hills, and cliffs. They use a variety of habitats ranging from arctic to desert, including tundra, shrublands, grasslands, coniferous forests, farmland, and areas along rivers and streams. Found mostly in the western half of the U.S., they are rare in eastern states.



Black Bear

The American black bear is the smallest of the three bears species found in North America, and are found only in North America. Black bears have short, non-retractable claws that give them an excellent tree-climbing ability.

Black bear fur is usually a uniform color except for a brown muzzle and light markings that sometimes appear on their chests. Eastern populations are usually black in color while western populations often show brown, cinnamon, and blond coloration in addition to black. Black bears with white-bluish fur are known as Kermode (glacier) bears and these unique color phases are only found in coastal British Columbia, Canada.

Mating Season: Summer.

Gestation: 63-70 days.

Litter Size: 1-6 cubs; 2 cubs are most common.

Cubs remain with the mother for a year and a half or more, even though they are weaned at 6-8 months of age. Females only reproduce every second year (or more). Should the young die for some reason, the female may reproduce again after only one year.



The black bear used to range most of the North American continent.

By 1995, the black bear range was reduced to about a third of its original size.



Scrub Jay

- **Size & Shape:** A fairly large songbird with lanky dimensions. The tail is long and floppy; the bird often adopts a hunched-over posture. The bill is straight and stout, with a hook at the tip.
- **Color Pattern:** Rich azure blue and gray above, with a clean, pale underside broken up by a blue necklace. In birds, the color blue depends on lighting, so California Scrub-Jays can also look simply dark.
- **Behavior:** Assertive, vocal, and inquisitive. You'll often notice scrub-jays silhouetted high in trees, on wires, or on posts where they act as lookouts. In flight seems underpowered and slow, with bouts of fluttering alternating with glides.
- **Habitat:** Look for California Scrub-Jays in open habitats, oak woodlands, and chaparral along the West Coast, as well as in backyards, pastures, and orchards. Typically, though not always, in lower and drier habitats than Steller's Jay.



California Scrub-Jay
Aphelocoma californica



Fun Fact! Scrub Jays store acorns in trees, barns, and even houses, so they have food when it is hard to find. If you ever see a tree with acorns stashed in the holes, you have found an oak granary, which is what scientists call this special bird's food store!

BLACK WIDOW SPIDER

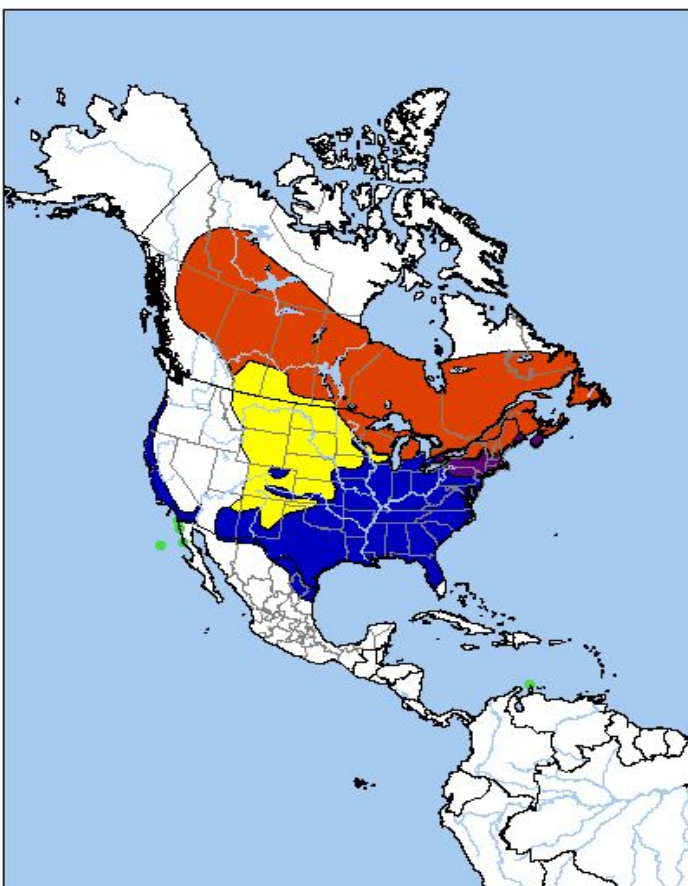
The Black Widow spider is the most poisonous spider in North America, but only the adult female. The female Black Widow is easy to recognize (if you care to get that close) by the red hourglass shape on the underneath part of her abdomen. She has a shiny black body with various types of red markings on the top, depending on the species. There are about five species of Black Widow spiders in North America.

The black widow will grow to about 8-10mm.

Black Widows will lay up to 400 eggs at a time, but they are known to be cannibals, which means that they will eat each other. The Black Widow has unfairly earned a bad reputation for wanting to eat her mate. She will only eat her mate when she mistakes him for a meal!

The silk of this spider is known to be the strongest of all silk. The Black Widow spider does not spin the pretty webs, instead she will spin the thick jumbles looking cobweb. These webs catch beetles, flies, grasshoppers, moths and other spiders.

These spiders, although a little scary, have enemies, as well. A few wasps can sting and paralyze, before eating the Black Widow. She is also a favorite food of the Praying Mantis. Some birds will eat these spiders but could end up with an upset stomach from her poisons. The bright red markings on her belly will warn possible predators that she is a nasty meal.



- Permanent Resident
- Breeding Resident
- Nonbreeding Resident
- Passage Migrant
- Uncertain Status
- Introduced
- Vagrant
- Extirpated
- Historical Records Only
- National boundary
- Subnational boundary
- River
- Water body



Map created September 2007

Manzanita

- The name "manzanita" originates from Spanish language. It means "small apple".
- Manzanita represents important source of food for bears, deer and birds. These animals facilitate dispersal of seed.
- Both fruit and flowers of manzanita are edible. Fruit is used for the preparation of a cider-like beverage.



Native Americans used leaves and bark of manzanita in treatment of skin injuries (such as cuts and burns). Tea made of fresh berries can be used in treatment of poison oak rash. Manzanita has very dense wood which is often used as a firewood. It can be also used for the manufacture of pipes.

Dry, dead branches of manzanita are often used to decorate aquariums because they do not rot in the water.

Manzanita trees can survive more than 100 years, and they stay green all year round.

