

# My Wetland Walk Field Journal



Brought to you by Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Trip Site(s):** \_\_\_\_\_



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Note: the contents of this Field Journal are intended to be a starting place for anyone to identify commonly seen animals, birds, reptiles, and insects. This does not include everything possible at the refuge.

Consider downloading our Wildlife Checklist for a more complete list:

<https://www.fws.gov/media/sacramento-national-wildlife-refuge-complex-wildlife-checklist>

Use this guide to help you identify the organisms you see on the walk. Keep in mind: even though you may not see animals out and about, that doesn't mean that there are not animals at the site!

**Some animals are active at different times of the day:**







<b>Type of Animal</b>	<b>When are they active/often seen</b>
<b>Crepuscular</b> Pronunciation: kruh- <b>puh</b> -skyuh-lerr	During dawn and dusk
<b>Diurnal</b> Pronunciation: dai- <b>ur</b> -nuhl	During the day
<b>Nocturnal</b> Pronunciation: nock- <b>tur</b> -nuhl	During nighttime

Most animals come out when it is dark out for protection. Look for evidence to help you figure out what animals were in the area you are exploring earlier!

As you go on the walk, document (write and/or draw) any **evidence** you found that shows animals were in the area you were exploring:







# Scat Guide

**Scat** is the scientific word scientists use for animal poop or droppings. It may seem gross to study it, but it can be helpful for identification!

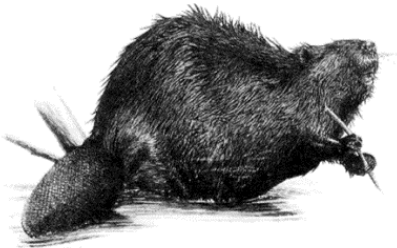
<b>Scat Sketch</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Animal</b>
	<p>Large, long, thin pieces, furry</p>	<p>Coyote</p>
	<p>Large piles, pieces have chunks of shellfish and plant matter, sometimes fur</p>	<p>River Otter</p>
	<p>Small brown round pellets in groups</p>	<p>Jack Rabbit</p>
	<p>Green and black thin pieces, dried white substance on outside</p>	<p>Canada Goose</p>
	<p>Small round pieces that have large chunks of various foods in them</p>	<p>Raccoon</p>
	<p>Medium size pieces, hairy looking, wood pieces</p>	<p>Beaver</p>

# Track Guide

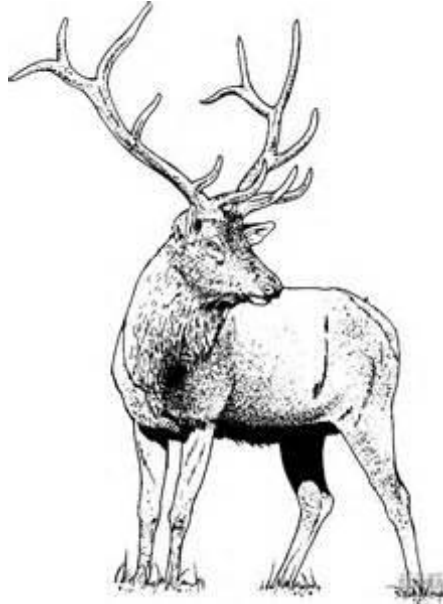
Tracks are footprints left behind by animals. Look closely at the toes! This will help you figure out who left them.

Track Sketch	Description	Animal
	<p>Five toes per print, two prints next to each other, long slender hand-like prints</p>	<p>Raccoon</p>
	<p>Three long toes with webbing marking</p>	<p>Mallard</p>
	<p>Four toes per paw, similar to dog print, has visible nail marks</p>	<p>Coyote</p>
	<p>Groups of four prints together with spacing between groups, short four-toed prints with small toes</p>	<p>Jackrabbit</p>
	<p>Three long toes in front, one short toe in back, long strides in between (no webbing like a duck)</p>	<p>Great Blue Heron</p>
	<p>Two long wedges in front, two short spots in back, long strides</p>	<p>Mule Deer</p>

# Mammal Guide



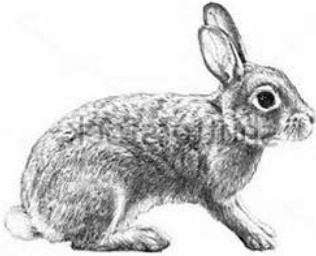
Beaver



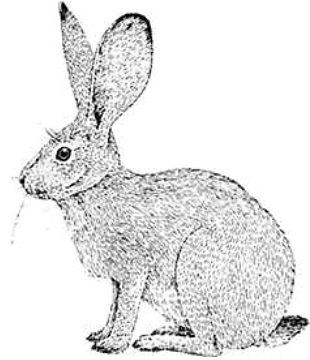
Roosevelt Elk



Muskrat



Cottontail Rabbit



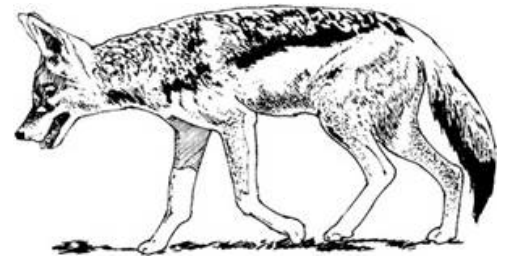
Black-Tailed Jackrabbit



Raccoon



Red Fox



Coyote



Black Tailed Deer



North American River Otter



Mink

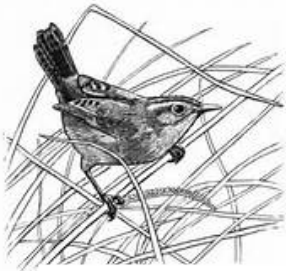
# Bird Guide

## Passerines

Western Meadowlark



California Scrub-Jay



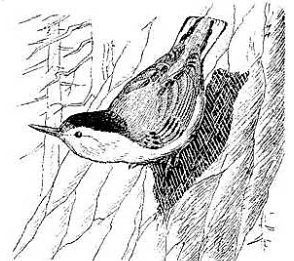
Marsh Wren



Red-winged Blackbird



Northern Flicker



White-Breasted Nuthatch

## Raptors and Vultures



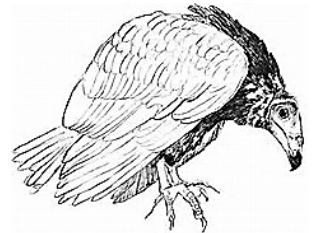
Red-shouldered Hawk



American Kestrel



Red-tailed Hawk



Turkey Vulture

## Shore Birds



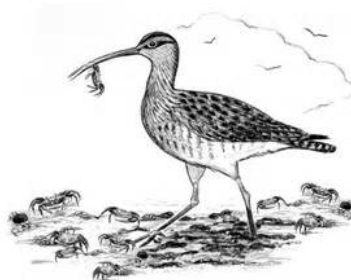
Black-necked Stilt



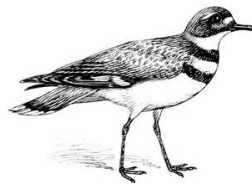
American Coot



Wilson's Snipe



Curlew

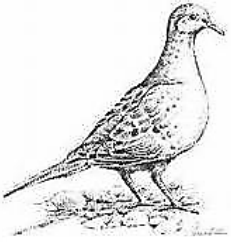


Killdeer

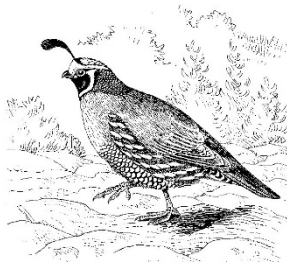


American Avocet

## Upland Birds



Mourning Dove



California Quail



Ring-necked Pheasant



Wild Turkey

## Wading Birds



Great Blue Heron



Great Egret

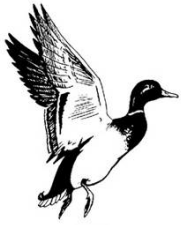


Snowy Egret



Sandhill Crane

## Waterfowl



Mallard



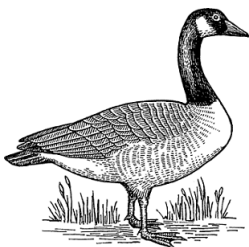
Ruddy Duck



Northern Pintail



Wood Duck



Canada Goose



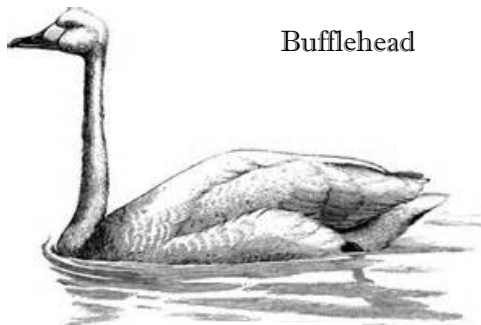
Bufflehead



Northern Shoveler



Cinnamon Teal



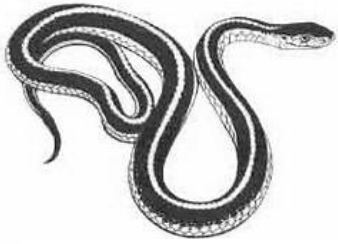
Tundra Swan



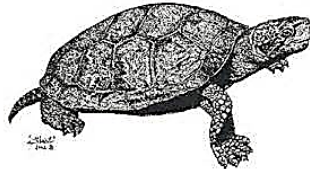
Snow Goose



# Reptile Guide



Common Garter Snake



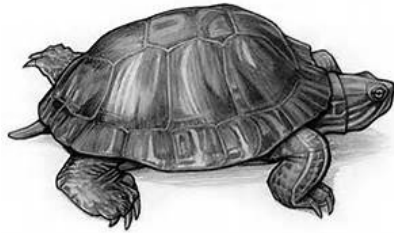
Western Pond Turtle



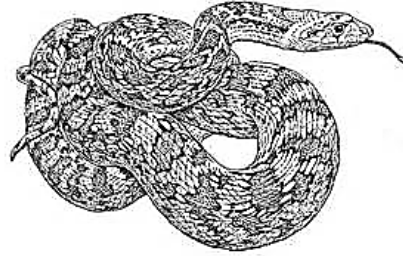
American Bullfrog



Western Fence Lizard



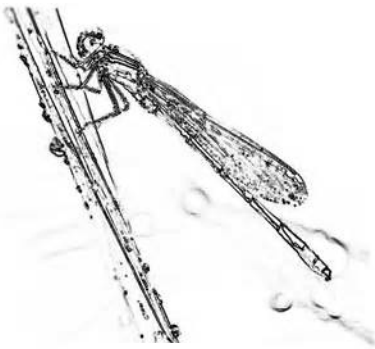
Red-eared Slider



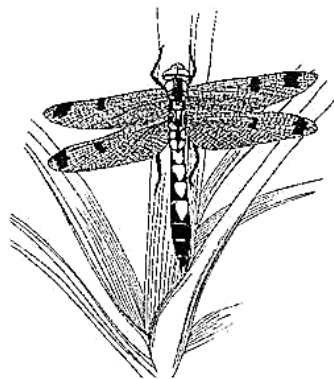
Pacific Gopher Snake

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# Insect Guide



Damselfly



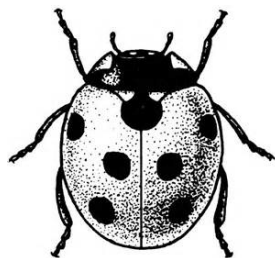
Dragonfly



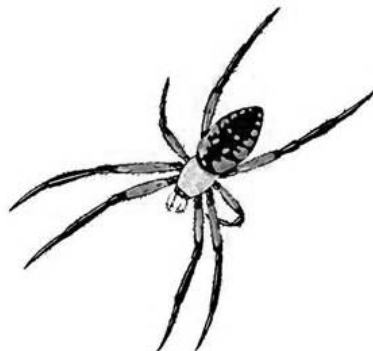
Mayfly



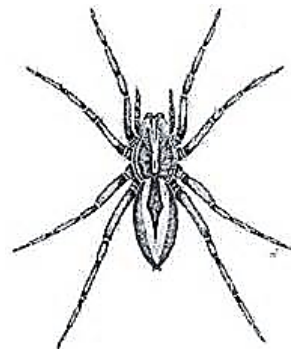
Mosquito



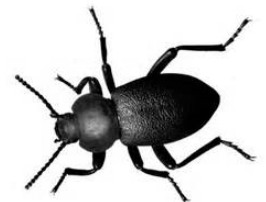
Ladybird Beetle



Orb-weaver Spider



Wolf Spider



Carrion Beetle

# Notes Pages

All good field biologists take notes. Sketching is important too. Use these pages to jot down notes and sketch some of the organisms you have seen and learned about today.

**This booklet is brought to you by:**



The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge is part of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The refuge consists of 10,819 acres of primarily wetlands, with some grasslands and riparian habitats. The refuge supports over 250 species of birds. Most notable are the high wintering concentrations of 500,000 to 750,000 ducks and 200,000 geese! The Sacramento NWR provides a 6-mile auto tour around the refuge – perfect for wildlife viewing – and a 2-mile walking trail starting at the Visitor Center parking lot. In addition, the visitor center offers exhibits, a bookstore, and an option to borrow binoculars for the day!

**Refuge hours:** Open one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset year-round.

**Visitor Center Hours** *Subject to change, closed on all federal holidays.*

Check website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sacramento/sacramento-nwr-complex-visitor-center>.

*Historically:*

March-October: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm

November-February: Open daily, 9am-4pm

Bathrooms are located outside the visitor center and remain open even when the Visitor Center is closed.