

Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). Common lizard in wooded rocky areas, often on fence posts, logs, and sides of buildings.

Sagebrush Lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus*). Found in basin sagebrush flats into pinyon-juniper hillsides.

Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*). The most abundant lizard at lower elevations (below 5,000 feet), in gravelly and rocky areas.

Desert Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*). Commonly seen in valleys and flats below 6,500 feet sunning themselves in sandy or gravelly areas.

Desert Night Lizard (*Xantusia vigilis*). Common small nocturnal lizard found on semi-arid flats below 5,200 feet under fallen Joshua trees and rotten logs.

Western Skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus*). Rare. Found near water at Corn Creek under logs or bark and in pinyon-juniper associated with moisture.

Western Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*). Abundant on fine to hard-packed soils with sparse vegetation.

Snakes

Spotted Leaf-nosed Snake (*Phyllorhynchus decurtatus*). Nocturnal snake found in open flats and sandy areas, often near creosote bushes.

Coachwhip or Red Racer (*Masticophis flagellum*). A common diurnal snake found near mesquites in low rocky foothills and on gravelly desert floor.

Striped Whipsnake (*Masticophis taeniatus*). Diurnal. Found in a variety of habitats in foothills and mountains, often near sagebrush.

Western Patch-nosed Snake (*Salvadora hexalepis*). Diurnal. Found in low brushy areas around 5,500 feet elevation.

Glossy Snake (*Arizona elegans*). Nocturnal. Occurs in a variety of habitats. Adults reach a length of 17 to 46 inches.

Gopher Snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*). A diurnal snake often mistaken for a rattlesnake. Seen often in vegetated valleys and washes.

Common Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*). Usually diurnal but may be active at night in summer months. Found near water at Corn Creek.

Long-nosed Snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*). Nocturnal. May be found along roadways at night. Adults reach 20 to 38 inches in length.

Western Ground Snake (*Sonora semiannulata*). Nocturnal. Found in sandy areas up to 4,000 feet in elevation; may be seen at night on roads.

Western Shovel-nosed Snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*). Rare. A small nocturnal snake (6 to 15 inches long) found in sandy areas and washes. Active in the spring.

Sonora Lyre Snake (*Trimorphodon lambda*). Rare. Found in rocky areas into tree zones. A good climber. Adults reach 21 to 41 inches in length.

Night Snake (*Hypsiglena torquata*). Nocturnal. Found under rocks, dead branches of Joshua trees and mesquite, and other surface litter.

Speckled Rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchelli*). Nocturnal. A poisonous snake found generally in washes. Adults are 22 to 40 inches long.

Sidewinder (*Crotalus cerastes*). Poisonous, nocturnal snake found in sandy areas and gravelly washes up to 5,000 or 6,000 feet in altitude. Adults reach 17 to 30 inches in length.

The presence of the following species on the Wildlife Range is hypothetical:

Amphibians

Western Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus hammondi*). This toad is found near Indian Springs (not on the Range) where the soil is sandy or gravelly.

Red-spotted Toad (*Bufo punctatus*). Nocturnal. Found in rocky canyons and washes. Included on distributional basis only.

Lizards

Desert Iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*). Found in sandy areas with creosote bush. Seen out even in very hot weather in areas up to 4,000 feet. Included on distributional basis only.

Long-tailed Brush Lizard (*Urosaurus graciosus*). Diurnal. Found in loose sand near creosote bush. Included on distributional basis only.

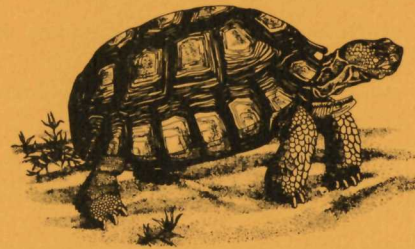
Gila Monster (*Heloderma suspectum*). The only poisonous lizard in North America. Found near Indian Springs on desert floor and valleys. This lizard reaches 24 inches in length.

Snakes

Western Blind Snake (*Leptotyphlops humilis*). Nocturnal. Found on rocky hillsides with patches of loose soil. Included on distributional basis only.

Western Black-headed Snake (*Tantilla planiceps*). Nocturnal. Found in rocky edges of washes in valleys and hillsides. May be seen on roads on warm nights. Included on distributional basis only.

Mojave Rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*). A poisonous snake found in areas of scrubby growth of creosote and mesquite brush. Included on distributional basis only.



The drawing of the Desert Tortoise by Josette Gourley is used by courtesy of the Foresta Institute, Carson City, Nevada.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information concerning this unique wildlife domain can be obtained by contacting the:

Refuge Manager
Desert National Wildlife Range
1500 N. Decatur Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89108



MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES OF THE DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States — now and in the future.



INTERIOR — PORTLAND, OREGON

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NEVADA

MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES
OF THE
DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE

The Desert National Wildlife Range, just north of Las Vegas in southern Nevada, is the largest wildlife refuge in the United States outside of Alaska. It was established in 1936 primarily for the management and preservation of the desert bighorn sheep.

The 1½ million-acre refuge encompasses six mountain ranges running generally in a north-south direction. The best known of these, the Sheep Range, has numerous small springs and seeps — a comparatively good water supply for a desert region. The highest point, Hayford Peak, is 9,912 feet above sea level. The valleys are typical of the Mohave Desert and may be as low as 2,500 feet in elevation. The Wildlife Range has well-defined life zones ranging from the creosote-saltbush and blackbrush zones in the lower valleys through the Joshua tree, pinyon-juniper, and ponderosa pine to bristlecone pine at higher elevations on the Sheep Range.

Since the precipitation is low, the few amphibians living on the Range are found only at the permanent springs around Corn Creek. Mammals and reptiles can control their bodily water losses and are found over a wide variety of habitats on the Range.

Despite a popular misconception, most mammals and reptiles cannot withstand high temperatures for long periods of time. Many reptiles use the hot desert sun to regulate their body temperature by moving into the sun during the cool of the day and under rocks or into burrows during the hotter periods. Our desert mammals follow the same daily pattern of activity to conserve body moisture, for in this harsh desert environment little water can be spared to cool overheated bodies. Also many mammals and reptiles are nocturnal, coming out of their burrows to feed only at night. The best times to observe mammals and reptiles are in the early morning and evening hours and in the spring or fall when temperatures are cooler, especially in the spring or fall when temperatures are cooler.

The accompanying lists include 52 species of mammals and 31 species of amphibians and reptiles that have been observed by refuge personnel or recorded by scientists who have collected in the area. A hypothetical list of eight species of amphibians and reptiles that are suspected but not confirmed to be on the Wildlife Range follows the main list of reptiles.

ANNOTATED LIST OF THE
MAMMALS OF THE
DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE

The order in which the species appears and the scientific names follow Miller and Kellog (*List of North American Recent Mammals*, U.S. National Museum Bulletin 205). Common names follow Burt and Grossenheider (*A Field Guide to the Mammals*, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1962).

Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*). Occasional. A colonial cave bat.

Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*). Found in or just below timbered areas of the refuge. Uses niches in rocks, trees, or buildings to roost.

Long-legged Myotis (*Myotis volans*). Common in the tree zones.

California Myotis (*Myotis californicus*). Common in the lower desert areas below the tree zones. A colonial cave bat.

Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis subulatus*). Usually found below 6,500 feet. Uses niches in rocks, trees, or buildings to roost.

Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*). Found occasionally.

Western Pipistrel (*Pipistrellus hesperus*). The common small bat found throughout the Wildlife Range below the ponderosa pine zone.

Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*). Common. A colonial cave bat.

Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*). Of rare occurrence at lower elevations.

Western Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*). Found occasionally.

Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*). A common cave bat throughout.

Mexican Freetail Bat (*Tadarida mexicana*). A common cave bat.

Blacktail Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*). Common throughout the open desert at lower elevations, but occasionally found into the ponderosa pines.

Mountain Cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*). Generally found at the higher elevations in the tree zones and usually in brushy situations.

Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). Common in washes at lower elevations although it will range up into the tree zones.

Townsend Ground Squirrel (*Citellus townsendii*). Only at Indian Springs.

Rock Squirrel (*Citellus variegatus*). A common but not abundant large squirrel, found in rocky areas throughout the Sheep Range.

Whitetail Antelope Squirrel (*Citellus leucurus*). Common throughout the lower elevations and occasional in the lower tree zone.

Colorado Chipmunk (*Eutamias quadrivittatus*). Found only on the Sheep Range, mainly in the ponderosa pine zone.

Cliff Chipmunk (*Eutamias dorsalis*). Found only on the Sheep and Las Vegas Ranges, primarily in the tree zones.

Valley Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys bottae*). This species is widely scattered throughout all zones.

Little Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus longimembris*). Inhabits the firmer soils above the valley floor as high as 6,500 feet.

Great Basin Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus parvus*). Found sparingly within the range of the little pocket mouse.

Longtail Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus formosus*). Generally abundant below the tree zone where stones are scattered over the soil.

Merriam Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys merriami*). Common below 6,500 feet.

Great Basin Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys microps*). Usually inhabits the sandy loose soil around the dry lakes; also found in the Joshua tree zone.

Desert Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys deserti*). Not common. Present only in the deep windblown sandy areas of the desert floor.

Western Harvest Mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*). Widely scattered but nowhere common. Usually found near water.

Canyon Mouse (*Peromyscus crinitus*). Found everywhere in rocky situations.

Cactus Mouse (*Peromyscus eremicus*). This is the common white-footed mouse of the lower desert, but it occurs up into the Joshua tree zone.

Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*). Common throughout in moist situations. It is replaced by the cactus mouse in the low dry desert areas and the canyon mouse in rocky situations.

Brush Mouse (*Peromyscus boylii*). Rare, but widely scattered in brush type habitat at most elevations.

Pinyon Mouse (*Peromyscus truei*). Generally found associated with pinyon pines and junipers in rocky situations.

Southern Grasshopper Mouse (*Onychomys torridus*). Widespread but not abundant, generally below 5,500 feet.

Desert Woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*). Abundant from the lowest elevations up into the pinyon-juniper zone and frequent as high as 9,000 feet. Houses of small stones, twigs, and cactus are a common sight.

Bushytail Woodrat (*Neotoma cinerea*). Most common above the pinyon-juniper zone. Collected at 11,000 feet.

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*). Found only around dwellings occupied by man.

Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*). Not common. Usually in timber.

Coyote (*Canis latrans*). Common throughout the area.

Red Fox (*Vulpes fulva*). Occurrence based on skull found in the Sheep Range.

Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*). Found throughout at lower elevations, usually observed around the dry lake beds and sand dunes.

Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*). Found throughout the area.

Ringtail Cat (*Bassariscus astutus*). Rare. Reported from the Corn Creek Field Station and in the Sheep Range.

Badger (*Taxidea taxus*). Fairly common through the lower elevations, but may be found well up in the tree zones.

Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*). Occasional in the Sheep Range in the tree zones.

Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). Rare. Observed only on the Sheep Range in the tree zones.

Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*). (Cougar, Puma). Rare at higher elevations in the Sheep Range.

Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*). Found throughout the refuge.

Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). Common on the Sheep Range.

Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*). (Antelope). Native herds roam off and on the Wildlife Range along the northern boundary.

Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). Widespread on the mountain ranges of the Desert Wildlife Range, but nowhere abundant.

Wild Burro (*Equus assinus*). Rare. Occasionally roam onto Wildlife Range from adjoining Public Domain Lands.

ANNOTATED LIST OF THE
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF THE
DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE

Frogs

Pacific Treefrog (*Hyla regilla*). Rare. Found around water at Corn Creek.

Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*). Common at Corn Creek.

Turtles

Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*). Not a native species. Illegally released into Corn Creek Pond.

Tortoise

Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizi*). Commonly seen between March and September in flats and surrounding foothills.

Lizards

Banded Gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus*). A nocturnal lizard found under rocks and fallen yuccas up to 4,000 feet. Most common in the spring.

Chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*). Uncommon. A large lizard found sunning themselves on large rocks and boulders on barren hills from 2,000 to 4,000 feet in elevation.

Zebra-tailed Lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*). Common in gravelly and sandy washes in the morning and evening during summer. A fast lizard which runs with tail up.

Collared Lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*). A rock-dwelling lizard found in mountainous and hilly areas on slopes and washes. Seen most commonly in mornings of spring and early summer.

Leopard Lizard (*Crotaphytus wislizenii*). One of the larger lizards, found in flat areas with loose soil and scattered low vegetation up to 7,000 feet.

Desert Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus magister*). A good climber found in bushy plains and lower slopes of mountains, often near water in the summer.