



Reptiles, Amphibians, & Fish



Death Valley National Park

Death Valley National Park protects over 3 million acres of Mojave Desert, famous as the hottest, driest and lowest place in the nation. Despite those extremes, it is home to a diverse amount of wildlife species: 56 mammals, 36 reptiles, 5 amphibians, 6 fish, and nearly 400 bird species have been found in the park.

Habitats vary from salt pan below sea level to the subalpine conditions found on the 11,049' summit of Telescope Peak. In between are sand dunes, canyons, alluvial fans, badlands, rocky ridges, and spring-fed wetlands. Vegetation zones include creosote bush, desert holly and mesquite at the lower elevations and range up

through shadscale, blackbrush, Joshua tree, piñon-juniper woodlands, to limber pine and bristlecone pine. Annual precipitation varies from 1.9 inches on the valley floor to over 15 inches in the surrounding mountains. This list represents observation and studies reported primarily since 1933.

Reptiles

Desert Tortoise

Gopherus agassizii

Found in flats and surrounding foothills from 1500 to 3500 feet; burrows have arched roof; a federally listed threatened species.

Desert Banded Gecko

Coleonyx variegatus variegatus

Nocturnal; rocky areas, creosote bush flats; valley floor to 3500 feet.

Desert Iguana

Dipsosaurus dorsalis

In hummocks of mesquite and creosote bush in areas of fine, sandy soil; up to 3000 feet; very heat tolerant.

Chuckwalla

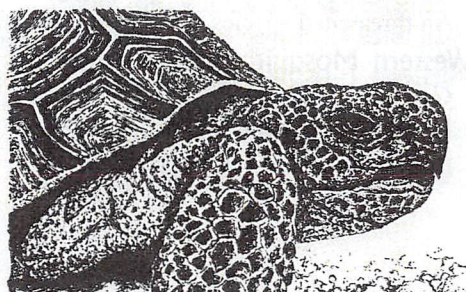
Sauromalus ater

Areas of rocks and boulders on alluvial fans and in canyons; throughout Death Valley up to 5000 ft.

Zebra-tailed Lizard

Callisaurus draconoides

Open areas in desert; near dunes and washes; on roads in morning; runs at great speed with tail curled forward.



Desert Tortoise

Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard

Uma scoparia

Ibex Dunes; may dive into loose sand when frightened.

Collared Lizard

Crotaphytus collaris

Areas of boulders for basking and open areas for hunting; from 1000 to 5000 feet.

Leopard Lizard

Gambelia wislizenii

Valley floor to 3600 feet on alluvial fans, in canyons and washes with scattered vegetation.

Desert Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus magister magister

Rocky slopes and canyons around vegetation from 3500 to 7000 feet; a good climber

Great Basin Fence Lizard

Sceloporus occidentalis biseriatus

Rocky areas in most elevations except low desert; rock outcrops, canyons, near springs.

Sagebrush Lizard

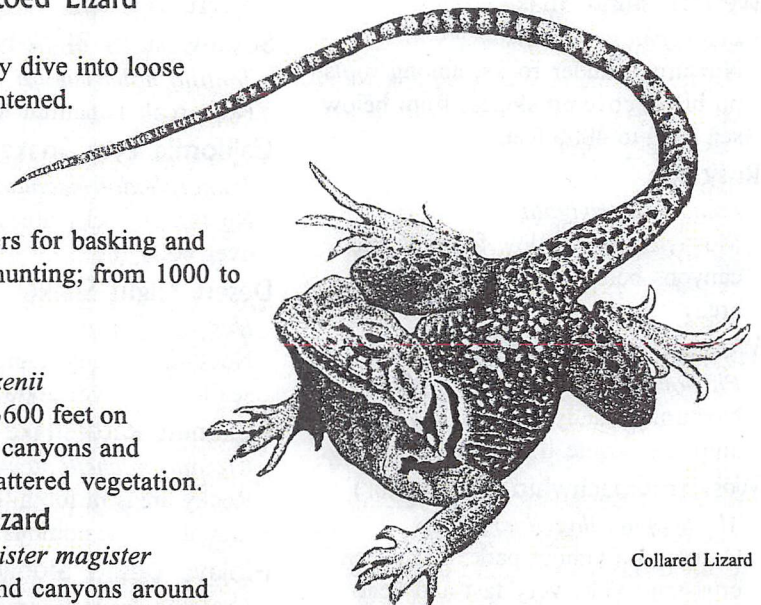
Sceloporus graciosus

Sagebrush through pinyon-juniper woodlands to to 10,500 feet.

Side-blotched Lizard

Uta stansburiana

Most commonly seen lizard in park; throughout park below 5000 feet in gravelly areas; active on warm days all year.



Collared Lizard

Western Brush Lizard

Urosaurus graciosus graciosus

Low desert in and around creosote bush and mesquite; lies camouflaged on branch or exposed roots.

Southern Desert Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma platyrhinus calidiarum

Sandy, gravelly areas; low desert to over 5000 feet; often near ant nests.

Desert Night Lizard

Xantusia vigilis vigilis

Under debris of yuccas; sagebrush zone of Panamint Mountains; most active in daytime but secretive and rarely seen.

Western Skink

Eumeces skiltonianus skiltonianus
Moist areas with good cover in pinyon-juniper woodlands.

Western Red-tailed Skink

Eumeces gilberti rubricaudatus
Isolated populations in Hanaupah and Johnson Canyons.

Great Basin Whiptail Lizard

Cnemidophorus tigris tigris
Sandy areas with sparse vegetation; rocky areas of upper washes; from below sea level to 5000 feet.

Panamint Alligator Lizard

Elegaria panamintina
Panamint and Grapevine Mountains above 3500 feet; talus slopes; thickets of wild grapevines near watered areas.

Western Blind Snake

Lepotyphlops humilis
Nocturnal; under rocks, among roots on brush covered slopes; from below sea level to 4000 feet.

Rosy Boa

Lichanura trivigata
Mostly nocturnal; low foothills and canyons below 4500 feet; watered areas.

Western Leaf-nosed Snake

Phyllorhynchus decurtatus perkinsi
Nocturnal; sandy and gravelly soil among creosote bush; rocky foothills.

Western Coachwhip (Red Racer)

Masticophis flagellum piceus
Common throughout park; often seen crossing roads; very fast and heat-tolerant; an aggressive snake, will bite if disturbed.

Striped Whipsnake

Masticophis taeniatus
Near water in Black Mountains and Cottonwood Mountains.

Desert Patch-nosed Snake

Salvadora hexalepis hexalepis
Rocky and sandy areas from lower slopes and washes up to 6000 feet.

Desert Glossy Snake

Arizona elegans eburnata
Nocturnal; sandy or gravelly areas at low elevations.

Great Basin Gopher Snake

Pituophis catenifer deserticola
From rock-strewn desert foothills into mountains; good climber.

California Kingsnake

Lampropeltis getula californiae
Panamint and Grapevine Mountains; nocturnal in hot weather.

Western Long-nosed Snake

Rhinocheilus lecontei lecontei
Nocturnal; mid-elevations of park.

Western Ground Snake

Sonora semiannulata
Nocturnal and secretive; sandy or fine gravel to over 4000 feet

Mojave Shovel-nosed Snake

Chionactis occipitalis occipitalis
Nocturnal; sandy areas of the low desert; sage flats.

Southwestern Black-headed Snake

Tantilla hobartsmithi
Nocturnal; Panamint Mountains.

California Lyre Snake

Trimorphodon biscatatus vandenburghi
Nocturnal; rocky areas; sea level to over 4000 ft.

Desert Night Snake

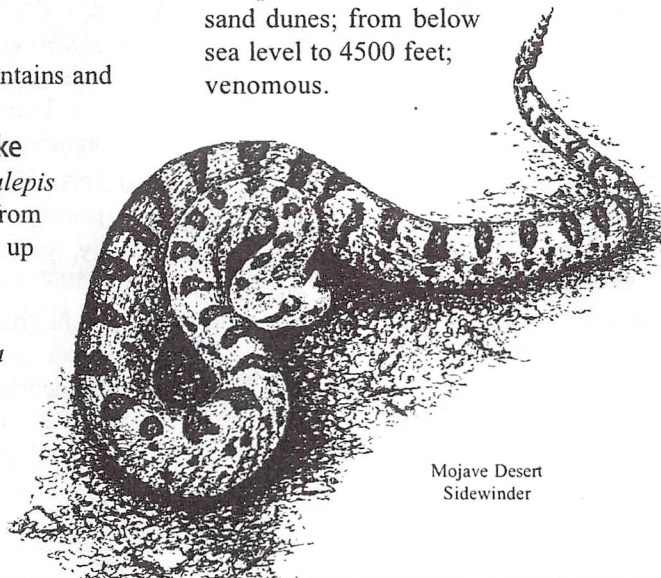
Hysiglena torquata
Nocturnal; many habitats from below sea level to over 5000 feet.

Panamint Rattlesnake

Crotalus michelli stephensi
Rocky areas in foothills and mountains; venomous.

Mojave Desert Sidewinder

Crotalus cerastes cerastes
Nocturnal and common; mesquite hummocks and sand dunes; from below sea level to 4500 feet; venomous.



Mojave Desert
Sidewinder

Amphibians

Inyo Mountains Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps campii
Rare; found in riparian areas in the Panamint Mountains.

Red-spotted Toad

Bufo punctatus
Mainly nocturnal; common in rocky areas near water.

Western Toad

Bufo boreas
Introduced to the Furnace Creek area where it is locally abundant; mainly nocturnal.

Pacific Treefrog

Pseudacris regilla
Watered areas throughout park.

Bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana
Introduced to the Furnace Creek area around 1920; highly aquatic.

Fish

Amargosa Pupfish

Cyprinodon nevadensis amargosa
Found in the Amargosa River northwest of Saratoga Springs.

Saratoga Pupfish

Cyprinodon nevadensis nevadensis
Endemic to Saratoga Springs at the south end of Death Valley.

Devil's Hole Pupfish

Cyprinodon diabolis
Endemic to Devil's Hole in the Ash Meadows Spring Complex; A federally listed endangered species.

Salt Creek Pupfish

Cyprinodon salinus salinus
Endemic to Salt Creek in central Death Valley. Most active during spring mating season.

Cottonball Marsh Pupfish

Cyprinodon salinus milleri
Endemic to Cottonball Marsh on the western side of central Death Valley; An threatened species in California.

Western Mosquitofish

Gambusia affinis
Introduced into the Furnace Creek irrigation ditches and ponds.