

Birds and Mammals

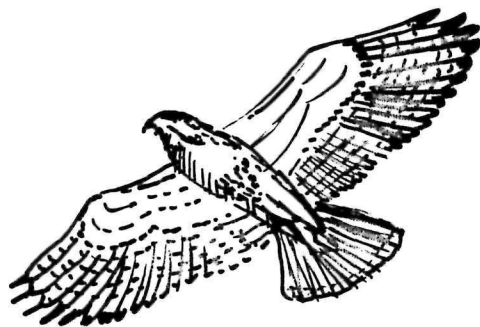
In Yosemite National Park more than 247 bird and 80 mammal species have been recorded, but not all of them are commonly seen by park visitors. Each species occupies a certain niche in nature's scheme and contributes to the welfare of other plants and animals, including man. Through study and

observation, one can gain an appreciation of wildlife and arrive at a better understanding of the role each species plays. Opportunities to observe and study wildlife vary throughout the park and are dependent on the season. While many animals stay within a particular life zone or

community year round, some, such as mule deer and some bird species, migrate to lower elevations in the winter. Others migrate northward or southward depending on the season. Life zones are determined by elevation and exposure and are listed below along with indicator species.

Life Zones in the Yosemite Region with Plant and Animal Indicators

Foothill 500 to 3,000-4,000 feet



Red-Tailed Hawk

Plants Digger Pine, Blue Oak, Interior Live Oak, Scrub Oak, Chamise, Toyon and other chaparral plants.

Birds Scrub Jay, Brown Towhee, Hutton's Vireo, California Thrasher, Bewick's Wren, Plain Titmouse, Wrentit, Nuttall's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Red-Tailed Hawk.

Mammals Western Harvest Mouse, Dusky-Footed Woodrat, Spotted Skunk, Mule Deer, Bobcat.



Spotted Skunk

Lower Montane 3,000-4,000 to 6,000-7,000 feet



Mule Deer

Plants Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine, Incense Cedar, White Fir, Douglas Fir, California Black Oak, Canyon Live Oak, Bigleaf Maple, Pacific Dogwood.

Birds Winter Wren, Purple Finch, Solitary Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Stellar's Jay, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Pygmy Owl, Great Horned Owl.

Mammals Deer Mouse, California Ground Squirrel, Western Gray Squirrel, California Mole, Valley Pocket Gopher, Mink, Ringtail,

Raccoon, Coyote, Bobcat, Mule Deer, Mountain Lion, Black Bear.



Pygmy Owl

Upper Montane
6,000-7,000 to 8,000-9,000 feet

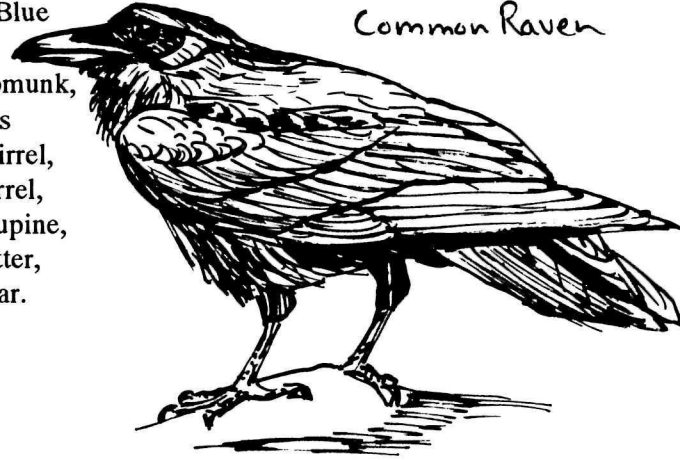
Plants Red Fir, Jeffrey Pine, Western White Pine, Lodgepole Pine, Quaking Aspen, Chinquapin.

Birds Cassin's Finch, Townsend's Solitaire, Lincoln's Sparrow, Blue Grouse, Common Raven.

Mammals Lodgepole Chipmunk, Bush-Tailed Woodrat, Douglas Squirrel, Northern Flying Squirrel, Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel, Yellow-Bellied Marmot, Porcupine, Long-Tailed Weasel, River Otter, Coyote, Mule Deer, Black Bear.



Black Bear



Common Raven

Subalpine
8,000-9,000 to 11,000-11,500 feet

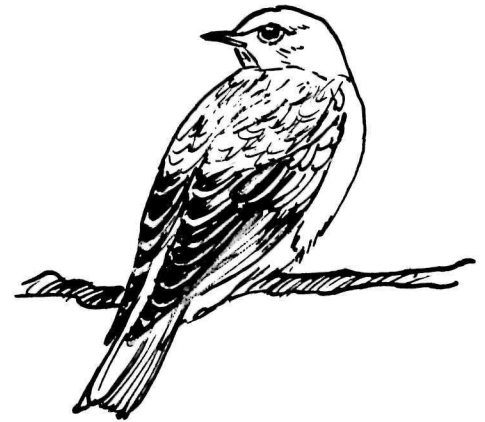
Plants Whitebark Pine, Mountain Hemlock, Lodgepole Pine.

Birds Rock Wren, Pine Grosbeak, Clark's Nutcracker, White-Crowned Sparrow, Black-Backed Woodpecker, Mountain Bluebird.

Mammals Water Shrew, Heather Vole, Belding Ground Squirrel, Pika, Mountain Pocket Gopher, Mule Deer (summer), Bighorn Sheep.



Belding Ground Squirrel



Mountain Bluebird

Alpine
11,000-11,500 feet and above

Plants Dwarf Willow, various dwarf or matted flowering plants, and turf-forming grasses and sedges.

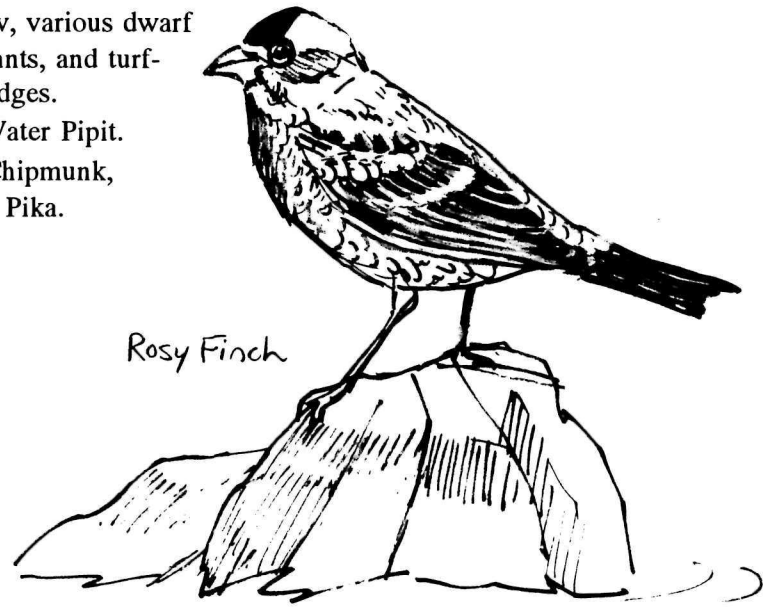
Birds Rosy Finch, Water Pipit.

Mammals Alpine Chipmunk, Alpine Pocket Gopher, Pika.

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Pika



Rosy Finch