

# WILDLIFE OF SLOAN CANYON

**Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area supports a variety of wildlife species. The actual number of species is unknown; however they represent three classes: mammals, reptiles and birds.**



# ● MAMMALS



## Sloan Mammals List:

- Jackrabbit
- Desert Cottontail Rabbit
- Desert Kangaroo Rat
- Antelope Ground Squirrel
- Coyote
- Grey Fox
- Kit Fox
- Desert Bighorn Sheep
- Mule Deer
- Bobcat
- Mountain Lion
- Pallid Bat
- Silver-haired Bat

# RABBITS OF SLOAN CANYON

## Desert Cottontail



The desert cottontail can be seen in the early morning or late afternoon.

It mainly eats grass and other plants.

It is much smaller than the jackrabbit with a tail that looks like a cotton ball.

## Black-tailed Jackrabbit



Reaching a length of about two feet and a weight from four to six pounds, the black-tailed jackrabbit is the third largest hare in North America.

The rabbit uses its long ears for heating and cooling of its internal temperature.



# ANTELOPE GROUND SQUIRREL



- The tail is somewhat flattened. They have a single white stripe on both flanks and none on their face.
- They live in burrows, which they dig for themselves.
- They are most active during the day and do not hibernate so they are easily seen.

# COYOTE



*Coyote by Barron Haley*

Weight: 15 pounds – 46 pounds  
Height: 22 inches to 26 inches  
Max speed: 40 mph (65 km/h)  
Body length: 29 inches to 34 in

The coyote is typically smaller than the wolf, but has longer ears, a thinner frame, face and muzzle.

The coyote also carries its tail downwards when running or walking, rather than horizontally as the wolf does.

# MULE DEER



- The mule deer have a height of 30–42 in and a length from 4ft to 7 ft
- Adult bucks (male deer) normally weigh (121–331 lb)
- Does (female deer) are smaller and weigh from 95 to 200 lbs

The most noticeable differences between white-tailed and mule deer are the larger size of their ears, the color of their tails.

The mule deer's tail is black-tipped, whereas the whitetail's is not.

# KIT FOX



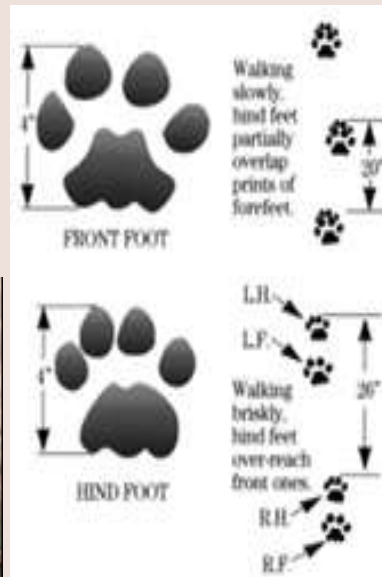
It is the smallest member of the canine family in North America.

Measuring 24-30 inches, from nose to tail.

They weigh 3 to 4 pounds.

It has sensitive eyes which allow it to hunt in the evening. Their huge ears help it to hunt in the dark.

# MOUNTAIN LION



- Lifespan: 8 years – 13 years (In wild)
- Weight: 116.84 pound (53 kg) – 220 pounds  
Male 65 pounds to 140 pound Female
- Speed: 40 mph (64 km/h) – 50 mph (80 km/h)
- Height: 23inch– 35 inches  
Length: 80 inches (205 cm) on average female  
94 inch on average male

The predatory behavior is very similar to the domestic cat. They try to conceal itself for a surprise attack while stalking its prey.



# DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP



Nevada's state mammal, the bighorn sheep gets its name from the large, curved horns on the males which are rams. These horns can weigh up to 30 lbs.

They are legendary for their ability to climb high, steep, rocky mountain areas. The sheep weigh up to 300 lbs.

Their diet includes cacti, grasses, herbaceous plants and shrubs.

# COMMONLY SEEN BIRDS OF SLOAN



# PHAINOPEPLA



The phainopepla is a black bird with red eyes that feeds primarily on the desert mistletoe plant.

This parasitic plant grows on a variety of desert trees such as mesquite and catclaw acacia.

The main threat to this bird is habitat loss due to urban development, OHV damage and illegal cutting of mesquite trees for wood.



# GAMBEL'S QUAIL



These birds are easily recognized by their top knots and scaly plumage on their undersides.

Its diet consists primarily of plant matter and seeds.

They primarily move about by walking and can move surprisingly fast through brush.

They are a non-migratory species and are rarely seen in flight.



# RED-TAILED HAWK



**Length: 22", Wing Span: 50"**

It is the most common bird in southern Nevada and the most familiar large hawk in North America.

The varied diet includes small mammals, birds, reptiles. They like to eat rats, rabbits, and ground squirrels.

If it has a red tail.... It's a RED-TAILED HAWK!

# BLACK THROATED SPARROW



The black-throated sparrow reaches a length of about 4–5 inches and is pale gray above, with a distinctive black and white head pattern.

It feeds primarily on insects and seeds, and travels in small groups

The larger groups may accumulate around sources of water in the desert.

# CACTUS WREN



The cactus wren is a large bird, at 7–9 inches long. Unlike the smaller wrens, the cactus wren is easily seen. It nests in cactus plants, or sometimes in a hole.

The cactus wren primarily eats insects, including ants, beetles, grasshoppers, and wasps. Occasionally, it will eat seeds, fruits, small reptiles and frogs.

Being curious birds, it is not uncommon for these wrens to be found flying about in automobiles where a window was open or it may even enter buildings with an open door.

# ROADRUNNER



- The Greater Roadrunner can reach running speeds of 19 mi/hr. It holds its head and tail flat and parallel to the ground when running at its top speed.
- To warm up after a cold desert night, a roadrunner will turn its back to the sun, fluff its back feathers, and expose skin along its back.
- They eat many venomous prey items, including scorpions, spiders, and rattlesnakes.



# **BIRD LIST FOR SLOAN CANYON:**

- **Loggerhead Shrike**
- **Gambel's Quail**
- **Greater roadrunner**
- **Mourning dove**
- **Phainopepla**
- **Cactus Wren**
- **Black-throated sparrow**
- **Red tailed Hawk**
- **Swainson's Hawk**
- **Greater roadrunner**
- **Black-chinned hummingbird**
- **Anna's hummingbird**
- **Broad-tailed hummingbird**

# REPTILES



# REPTILE LIST FOR SLOAN CANYON

- Chuckawalla
- Desert Iguana
- Zebra Tailed Lizard
- Gila Monster
- Collard Lizard
- Side-blotched Lizard
- Desert horned Lizard
- Long-nosed Leopard Lizard
- Desert Tortoise
- Western Banded Gecko
- Long-tailed Brush Lizard
- Coachwhip
- Long-nosed Snake
- Spotted Leaf Nose Snake
- Mojave Green Rattlesnake
- Sidewinder
- Speckled Rattlesnake



# COMMONLY SEEN REPTILES





# SIDE BLOTCHED LIZARD



They feed opportunistically on any moving insect of suitable size that passes nearby.

Lizards are active all year, although activity during the winter is dependent on temperature.

These and other lizards do "push-ups" which can signify territorial or mating behavior.

They prey on a variety of ants, ant lion larvae, flies, mosquitoes, beetles, bees and ticks.



# DESERT TORTOISE

## Threatened Species



**Weight:** 8-15 lbs.

**Length** (carapace): 9-15"

**Height:** 4 - 6"

**Sexual Maturity:** 15-20 years

**Mating Season:** Aug.-Oct.

**Incubation Period:** 90-120 days

**Lifespan:** 70-90 years

**Typical diet:** Herbs, grasses, flowers

# ZEBRA TAILED LIZARD



It feeds on insects including grasshoppers, bees, wasps and ants. It also feeds on small lizards, and plant material.

They range from 3 to 4 inches (63 to 100 mm) in length.

The Zebra-tailed lizard runs with an explosive burst of speed.



# COLLARD LIZARD



Powerful runner; on rear legs. They use their long tail for balance.

Adults can inflict painful bite.

Collared lizards like to bask in the sun on rock boulders looking for prey.

The collared lizard is distinguished by the two black collars around its neck.



# CHUCKAWALLA



Primarily herbivorous, chuckwallas feed on leaves, fruit and flowers of annuals and perennial plants.

When disturbed, a chuckwalla will wedge itself into a tight rock crevice and inflate its lungs in order to entrench itself.

The chuckawalla measures about 15 inches which classifies it as a larger lizard species.

# RATTLESNAKES

## Mojave Green Rattlesnake



The Mojave rattlesnake is the most venomous rattlesnake in North America.

It is often found under scrub brush such as mesquite and creosote, but may also reside among cacti.

Rattlesnakes feed on rodents, squirrels, rabbits and other small critters.

## Speckled Rattlesnake



They hibernate through the winter and come out in the spring to eat.

The speckled rattlesnake has been spotted around the rocky crevices in Sloan Canyon.



# Come Out on a Hike and Explore

A sharp-eyed visitor may glimpse and take a quick photo of the various wildlife species.

Some small mammals that are most commonly seen include the black-tailed jackrabbit, and the white-tailed antelope squirrels.

The larger mammal usually seen is the desert bighorn sheep.

Reptiles are the most common and numerous species in Sloan Canyon.



**What wildlife will you see??**



**“In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”**

**– Baba Dioum**

