

Mammals, Amphibians, Reptiles, and Fish at West Pond and Surrounding Neighborhood

An Annotated List (Observations 1989-2014)

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mammals¹		
Virginia opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	Not native in California (CA); first introduced in CA near San Jose in 1900; a common and widespread omnivore.
Brazilian or Mexican free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	Aerial insect feeder.
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Regular on the north side of Davis; first observed at West Pond (WP) in August 2014; also known as the "Song Dog".
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Omnivore; widespread; breeds at WP.
River otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i> * <i>Lutra canadensis</i>	Semi-aquatic; eats crayfish, fish, and frogs; first detected in the 1990s at WP.
Striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	An omnivore, but mainly insectivorous.
American mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	Crepuscular; occurs along streams, marshes; semi-aquatic; first detected in March 2014.
California ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	Makes burrows; last seen in 1991 at WP.
Western gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	First detected in 2013 at WP; typically found in woodlands and forests.
Fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Not native; native from Great Plains eastward; locally common.
Botta's pocket gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	Fossorial. In 2013, active burrows were detected in the south-end of WP; in 2014 burrows were found on a southern island.
California vole	<i>Microtus californicus</i>	Occurs in wetlands, grasslands.
Common muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Not native west of the Sierra Nevada; eastern muskrats were introduced into northern CA valleys in the 1920s; semi-aquatic; not seen since 2001 at WP.
House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Not native to North America (NA); originally from Asia; arrived in NA during the earliest English settlements in the U.S.
Norway or brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Not native to NA; originally from Asia; arrived on the East Coast 1755-76 and often displaced the roof rat which arrived earlier; semi-aquatic; the "sewer rat".
Roof or black rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Not native to NA; originally from Asia; introduced to NA around 1609; often displaced by the more aggressive Norway rat.

Black-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	It's a hare; often active during the daytime.
Desert or Audubon's cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	It's a rabbit; uses bunchgrass, shrubs for cover.
Amphibians²		
California (Western) toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas halophilus</i> * <i>Bufo boreas halophilus</i>	Breeds in WP; occurs in upland habitats most of the year; the calls are a series of mellow high-pitched "chirps".
Sierran treefrog* Pacific chorus frog Pacific treefrog	<i>Pseudacris sierra</i> * <i>Pseudacris regilla</i> <i>Hyla regilla</i>	Recent taxonomic changes; common; semi-aquatic; breeds in WP; frequently heard calling "kreck-ek and ribbit".
American bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i> * <i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Native east of the Rocky Mts; introduced to CA in 1905; widespread; the call is a deep-pitched "vr-vroom"; breeds in WP.
California tiger salamander	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	In 1993 an adult was found in an apartment complex near WP; its origins are unclear, although it's unlikely that it was a wild animal; a threatened species.
Reptiles²		
Northwestern fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus o. occidentalis</i>	Breeds in WP; occurs in upland habitats.
Western yellow-bellied racer	<i>Coluber constrictor mormon</i>	Occurs mostly in upland habitats.
Pacific gopher snake	<i>Pituophis c. catenifer</i> * <i>Pituophis melanoleucus c.</i>	Common; occurs mostly in upland habitats; feeds on rodents, reptiles, and eggs.
Valley (Common) gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis fitchi</i>	Common along streams, sloughs, marshes.
Western pond turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i> * <i>Emys marmorata</i> <i>Clemmys marmorata</i>	Native; semi-aquatic; nests in upland habitats; declined in many areas of CA; a CA species of special concern.
Red-eared slider (turtle)	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i> * <i>Pseudomys scripta elegans</i>	Native in the eastern U.S.; released at many CA locations; considered invasive and spreading; semi-aquatic; breeds at WP.
Fish³		
Western mosquitofish	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	Native to the mid-west U.S.; introduced to CA in 1922; found in Putah Creek (Yolo Co.) by 1923; planted for mosquito control.
Common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Native to Asia or the Caspian Sea region; possibly the first fish cultured by humans; first introduced in CA (Sonoma Co.) in 1872; introduced for sport and food.

Notes: Common and scientific names follow the publications listed below. *Recent name or taxonomic changes are also noted. See photos on the Friends of West Pond Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofWestPond>

1. Reid, F.A. 2006. A Field Guide to Mammals of North America: North of Mexico (4th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Co.
2. Moriarty, J. (ed.). 2008. Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in our Understanding, Sixth Edition. Herpetological Circular No. 37, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.
3. Moyle, P.B. 2002. Inland Fishes of California. University of California Press.