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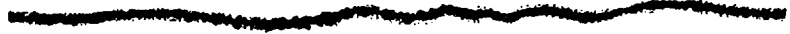
Cypress Park

# ELYRIA CANYON 4-H FIELD REFERENCE GUIDE

## WE HIKE ELYRIA CANYON



POCKET GOPHER



EARTH WORM



RACCOON



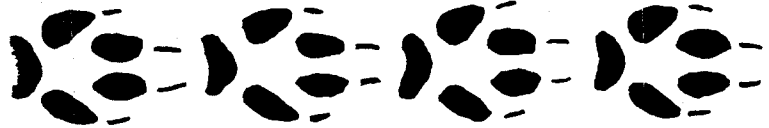
GRASS HOPPER



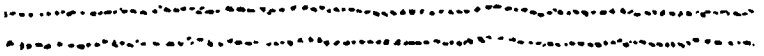
GREAT HORNED OWL



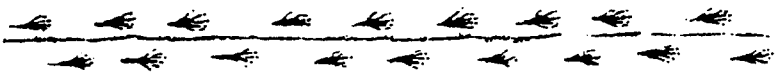
FLICKER



COYOTE



CENTIPEDE



LIZARD



GOPHER SNAKE



STRIPED SKUNK

A MOUNT WASHINGTON 4-H WILDLIFE PROJECT

WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

3020 PAPPAS AVE.

LEWISBURG, OH 43005

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

Ashley Sipchen, Student Editor in Chief

This Field Reference Guide is a 4-H public service wildlife project. It was researched by Mt. Washington Elementary School students and by the 4-H Club members. We worked on this from January to November 1995. The National Urban Forestry Grant Program and the Mt. Washington Neighborhood Association gave us money to help us with the printing costs.

This is an introductory effort, and we tried to be as accurate as possible at this time. We hope it will inspire others to further research. We did our research from books borrowed from the Glendale, Pasadena, South Pasadena and Los Angeles City libraries.

We thank Julian Donahue, a good neighbor and entomologist with the Los Angeles Museum of Natural Science, for providing us with a preliminary list containing the animals most likely to live in Elyria Canyon. We also thank Lynette Kampe from North East Trees for providing us with 1) a list containing the native plants presently documented in Elyria Canyon, 2) a list of plants that aren't native, and 3) a list of native plants recommended to be used in the restoration of Elyria Canyon, subject to approval by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Most of all we thank Judylynn Pelling, our Eagle-Rock-Highland Park 4-H Community Leader, whose support and encouragement made the project possible.

It was fun to learn about the different animals, and satisfying to learn how to do research in the library. "Learn By Doing" is the 4-H way. We hope this will be useful to our neighbors and others. We would like to dedicate this guide to Elna Bakker, who recently passed away but has inspired many children on Mt. Washington.

### Elyria Canyon 4-H Field Reference Guide:

**Student Editor-In-Chief:** Ashley Sipchen

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**Mt. Washington 4-H Wildlife Project Leader:** Debra Vodhanel

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**Parent Coordinator, Plants:** Lynette Kampe

**Parent Coordinator, Animals:** Cardie Molina

**Funding for this publication was provided in part by** the National Urban Forestry Grant Program of the USDA Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Mt. Washington Neighborhood Association, Liz Johnson, Pam Marx and Mark Goldstein.

**For further information** please contact Debra Vodhanel 213/2270611



## City Council of Los Angeles



JACKIE GOLDBERG  
Councilmember, 13th District

**CYPRESS PARK BRANCH LIBRARY**  
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June 26, 1995

JUN 20 1996

Ms. Ashley Sipchen, Junior Editor  
Elyria Canyon Field Guide  
352 Canyon Vista  
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Ashley:

I am so proud of the work that you and your fellow students are doing to publish the first Elyria Canyon Field Reference Guide.

Elyria Canyon is a precious natural resource that was thankfully saved from development by residents of Glassell Park and Mt. Washington. The park is both a peaceful place to hike and a great place to learn about plants and wildlife.

Elyria Canyon is a park today because of people who care about the future. Since the future belongs to you, the kids of today, it is fitting that you should be making the first Field Reference Guide. I look forward to seeing a copy!

Sincerely,

JACKIE GOLDBERG  
Councilmember, Thirteenth District

JG/dhw

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Mount Washington School  
3981 San Rafael Avenue  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90065

April 28, 1995

Dear Ms. Diana Lorenz,

I am writing to tell you about an outstanding event which took place at the Eagle Rock Library in which your students were involved. Several students of Mount Washington school and members of the Eagle Rock-Highland Park 4-H presented their projects concerning their efforts to save Elyria Canyon. All grades participated.

Their presentations were informative and they used posters and visual displays in discussing the animal and plant life of Elyria Canyon. They concluded the program with nature and craft activities.

This program was a positive learning experience for the students and a wonderful linking of library and resources. I am pleased to have been in attendance. I am also very appreciative to the parents involved. Special thanks go to Pam Marx and Debbie Vodhanel for their efforts in bringing the program to all of the children in the Eagle Rock community.

Please inform your students of my praise for their outstanding program.

Sincerely,

Connie Dosch  
Children's Librarian  
Eagle Rock Branch

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

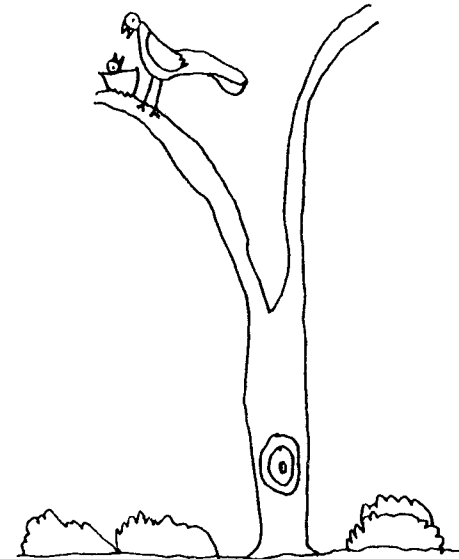
Diana Lorenz, Principal, Mt. Washington Elementary School

This Field Reference Guide is full of both information and inspiration. The information gathered by the students is precise and comprehensive. The research required to complete this guide is proof of the commitment of 4-H members and their leaders to an unusual project: the restoration of Elyria Canyon Park.

The inspiration for this project comes from the Mt. Washington community itself. The desire to restore the native vegetation in an urban area is an outgrowth of the vision needed to create the park itself. At one time, dozens of dwellings were planned for the canyon. Because Mt. Washington is composed of active and pro-active residents the park now exists in place of the proposed development.

The genesis for the restoration process, a class project by Mrs. Monji's third grade class in 1994, is an example of community cooperation. Thanks to the guidance of Elna Bakker, long time resident and environmentalist, this class created a large topographical model representing the native animals and vegetation that exist at various elevations within 50 miles of our school.

The present goal of restoring the ecological balance is based upon the information gathered from many sources and many individuals. The impressive contributions to the project by so many people are a tribute to the Mt. Washington community and an inspiration for others. All of us at Mt. Washington School are fortunate to be a part of it.



## TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO CARE: HOW WE MADE THIS GUIDE

Debra Vodhanel, Mt. Washington 4-H Wildlife Project Leader

How did we make this guide? With **lots** of help and **lots** of enthusiasm!

The idea came from a wildlife project completed by Mrs. Monji's Mt. Washington School third grade class in 1994. With guidance provided by Elna Bakker, a fondly remembered local resident and naturalist, the class researched animals found in the different natural plant communities that occur within 50 miles of the school. That spring the class presented their "Wildlife Sampler" at the dedication of Elyria Canyon Park as a protected wildlife habitat.

### Who lives in Elyria Canyon and why?

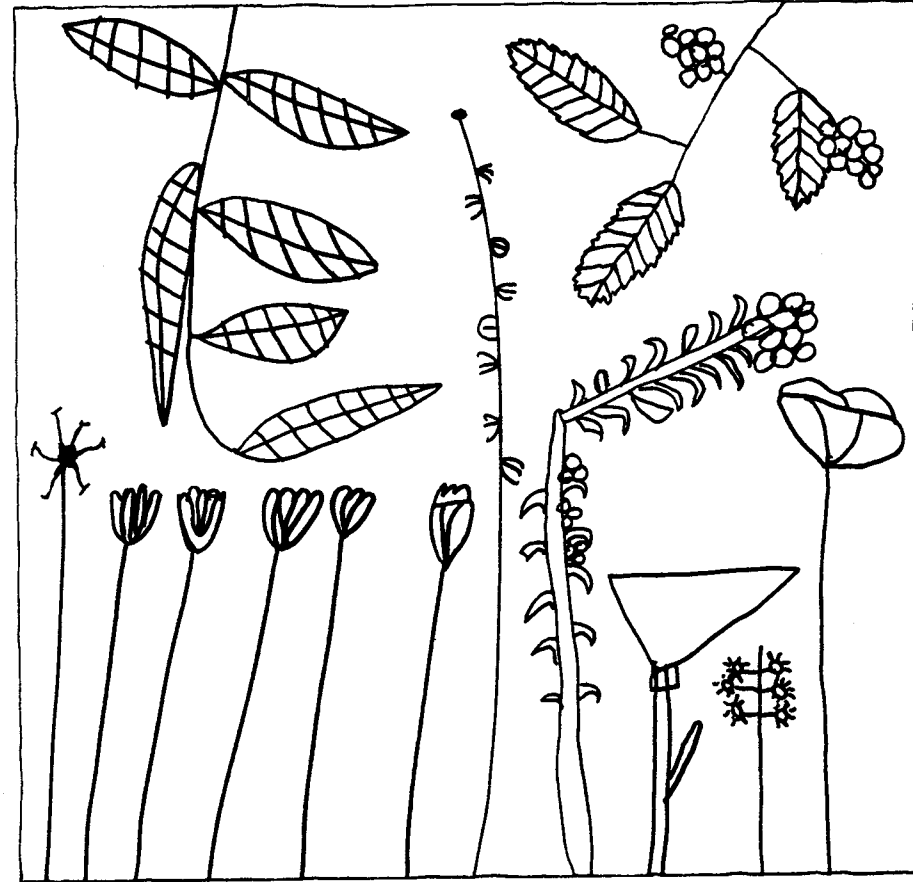
This new park, which is within walking distance of the school, provided a splendid opportunity for the students to expand their wildlife project. Julian Donahue, a neighbor and entomologist with the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History, supplied us with a preliminary list of animals most likely to call Elyria Canyon "home". Lynette Kampe, a parent volunteer also affiliated with North East Trees, gave us lists of the canyon's documented flora. Using research books borrowed from local city libraries, we considered 1) What the animals and plants look like, 2) Where they live 3) What they need to survive, and 4) How they reproduce. Students recorded their research on "worksheets", which were then entered into a computer and formatted into this guide. Highland Park-Eagle Rock 4-H members helped with the editing, computer formatting, and illustrating.

The information accumulated by the students was reinforced with hiking field trips to the canyon, flora restoration activities, and the preparation of oral and visual presentations about the importance of the canyon's wildlife. The student presentations were then shared with a wider community through several regional 4-H Fairs, 4-H Field Days, the Eagle Rock Library Earth Day, the May monthly meeting of the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles County Fair in September. The project involved over 800 hours of student participation, over 400 adult volunteer hours, and was presented to a total audience of over 5,000 L.A. County residents. The Eagle Rock-Highland Park 4-H Club also sponsored a California Releaf Grant, "Teaching Our Children To Care: Restoration of a Black Walnut Woodland". This grant paid partially for the printing costs of this guide and also paid for Clare Marter-Kenyon to coordinate hiking field trips and planting activities in the canyon during the 94 - 95 school year.

We thank the many, many student and adult volunteers whose combined efforts made this project special indeed. **Thank you especially** to Julian Donahue, Lynette Kampe, Judylynn Pelling, Pam Marx, Cardie Molina, Scott Wilson, Lynn Dwyer, Jerry Schneider, Pat Griffith, Pam Sipchen, Dana Schreiner, Diana Lorenz, and the teachers and staff of Mt. Washington School.

## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

# WHAT GROWS GREEN IN ELYRIA CANYON



*Illustrated by Libby McCann*

### Natural Plant Communities

Everything in a natural plant community is balanced to create a living web where everything is connected. Every species of animals is dependent on the class of animals below and above it. They need each other to survive. The base of all these life forms starts with the plants. If native plants are killed or, if new plants are introduced, it can throw the whole delicate network off-balance.

*Megan Goldstein*

*Student Editor, Elyria Canyon Plants*

## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

### CANYON RESTORATION

Lynnette Kampe, North East Trees

"Restoration" means to change something back to its original or an earlier condition. In restoration ecology the goal is to usually to bring a natural ecosystem, as much as possible, to the condition it had before the introduction of non-native plants and animals and the activities of modern man.

This puts us to a time about 200 years ago when the climate was much the same, but the appearance of the land was very different -- no cities, just parklands forever. There must have been a lot more animals then. Deer and condors probably visited Elyria less than 100 years ago and some current residents of Mt. Washington still remember seeing roadrunners and "lots of quail".

Natural ecosystems are different all over the world and we need to preserve some of each before they are lost forever. California is special because it has many native plants that are found nowhere else in the world. The plants that evolved here with the ocean on one side and the desert on the other, are unique and just as irreplaceable as any rainforest species.

Our climate in Los Angeles is very much like the climate in the Mediterranean region, so plants brought by the Spanish were very successful here. Some of them have been too successful. The problem is that some non-native plants, like wild oats, are able to grow so fast that no other plants can compete with them at the ground level. A walnut tree may get past them once in a while, but sprouts of smaller plants just have a very hard time getting the sunlight and water they need to survive.

This is what has happened in Elyria: the trees are great but the understory plants aren't what they used to be. As native plants disappear or become rare, so do the animals that depend upon them. For example: some birds like bushes rather than tree tops for foraging and nesting. So the birds that would visit and come to stay in a place with more native shrubs are rare in Elyria.

Every flower has its insects, and every insect has its place in the web of life. Buckwheat plants are rare in Elyria and the little blue butterflies (called "Blues") love them. If we plant more Buckwheat we will see more Blues, and more of the spiders that eat the Blues, and so on.

Elyria is parkland now and that protects it from development but doesn't stop the changes to the plant communities found there. Native plants become rare and eventually disappear when non-native, faster growing species are present, and unfortunately house cats are great hunters! Isolation itself leads to a predictable

## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

loss of species. Things just happen, and if a certain kind of plant or animal dies out there will not always be a replacement. Where there was once a rich diversity of plants and animals, each with their own beauty and function, there is a still beautiful, but not fully complete picture.

In Elyria Canyon Park we have the opportunity to reverse the degradation process a little bit. We can plant and we can weed: the animals pretty much have to come by themselves. Ecological restoration is like a puzzle where you try to figure out which pieces don't fit and which pieces are missing. The reward is to see more beauty in nature and to preserve more species to be studied and appreciated by future generations. Perhaps you won't see the condors above Elyria, but then again perhaps your children will. Elyria Park has a great friend in the children of Mt. Washington Elementary School and in the 4-H Club.



*Photograph by Dana Schreiner*

# ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

Student Editors: Megan and Holly Goldstein

Adult coordinator: Lynnette Kampe

## SCIENTIFIC NAMES:

Scientists give plants and animals scientific names. The scientific name of a plant, otherwise known as its botanical name, contains two words: the capitalized genus name, which identifies a large group of related plants, and the species name, which identifies the specific plant within the group.

The genus name may be the classical name of a plant, a Latinized version of the common name, or a classic word of general application. The species name is usually descriptive, commemorative or geographic. The common names of plants are easier to remember, but don't identify a plant exactly. A plant may have several different common names but will have only one botanical or scientific name.

We listed the plants in this guide according to their scientific (botanical) names. We included the common name wherever applicable. For ease of identification, we have grouped the plants according to their growth habits. Please remember that Elyria Canyon is not a pristine native environment, and that many non-native plants are currently growing there. We have listed below only the native plants currently found or recommended for reintroduction.

## NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITIES:

Natural plant communities are naturally occurring communities of different organisms — plants and animals — which inhabit a common environment and interact with each other, especially through food relationships. These different communities frequently merge into each other but, none-the-less, have a distinct, recognizable biotic balance.

The natural plant community affiliations are indicated using the abbreviations below:

**CWW** southern California black walnut woodland, shady locations

**CWW/CH** southern California black walnut woodland, exposed locations

**CWW/DR** species appropriate to protected woodland areas or drainages

**CSS** coastal sage scrub

**G** valley needlegrass grassland

**S** associated with seeps or drainages

# ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

## NATIVE PLANTS PRESENTLY FOUND IN ELYRIA CANYON:

### GRASSES

#### **Elymus glaucus**

(Blue Wildrye)

CWW, CWW/CH, CSS

Wild rye is a grass. Sparrows and grasshoppers eat the seed of the rye grass. Its spikelets are 1 cm. long. It grows in open woods and hillsides throughout the state.

*Researched by Alberto Bianchini and Megan Goldstein*

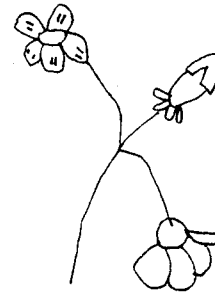
#### **Nasella (Stipa) pulchra**

(Purple needlegrass)

G, (CSS)

This grass grows from northern California to Mexico, also in Texas. It likes open ground. It has feathery seed heads and animals graze on it.

*Researched by Jeanette Ramirez*



### ANNUALS

#### **Pholistoma auritum**

(Fiesta Flower)

CWW

This plant is also called climbing nemophila. It has a weak stem and dark purple flowers. It grows 1-3 feet long in California's shady foothill areas.

*Researched by Megan Goldstein, Angelica Molina*



#### **Eschscholzia californica**

(California poppy)

*Reintroduced 1995*

CSS, G

It usually has 4 golden-orange petals. It has a long leafy stem. It is found over hillsides and valleys throughout California, north as far as Washington, south into Mexico and east to New Mexico. It blooms profusely under cultivation and when cut flowers are places in water, the petals open and close. It likes warm moist soil, rain and sun. Poppies bloom in the spring. The flower has a yellow cap which falls and then it spreads its petals. The seeds form in a long thin pod. It is the state flower of California. It is against the law to pick them in the wild.

*Researched by Cassie, Jairlyn Mason, Emily Sipchen, Angelica Molina*

### PERENIALS

#### **Epilobium cana**

also known as Zauschneria californica (California Fuchsia)

CSS

This plant grows 1/2 to 2 1/2 feet high in dry areas and rocky hillsides. Flowers are tubular and orange-red. Leaves are small and narrow and silver-grey.

*Researched by Megan Goldstein*

## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

**Erigeron foliosus var foliosus**  
(Fleabane)  
CSS

Another name for Fleabane is horseweed. Fleabane is a weed. It often grows up through streets. It reproduces very quickly because it makes 243,000 seeds. Fleabane comes out mostly in the late summer season.

*Researched by Megan Goldstein*



**Lotus scoparius**  
(Deerweed)  
CSS, D

This perennial plant has greenish broom-like branches, small pea-like yellow flowers and grows 1 foot tall. It serves as food for deer, sheep and livestock.

*Researched by Megan Goldstein, Carolyn Molina*

**Lupinus**  
(Lupine)  
D

This shrub produces spikes of blue flowers. Its roots help put nitrates into the soil. Native Americans used the seeds to make a medicinal tea.

*Researched by Megan Goldstein, Carolyn Molina*

**Sisyrinchium bellum**  
(Blue Eyed Grass)  
G, CSS

This plant has erect stems 10 - 20 inches high. It grows on moist grassy slopes. Its small 6-petal flowers are purplish blue and yellow at the base.

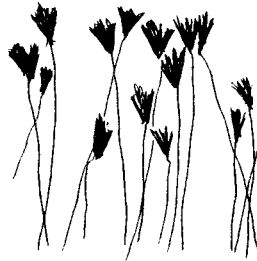
*Researched by Holly Goldstein*

### BULBS

**Bloomeria crocea**  
(Golden Stars)  
G

This plant grows in southern coastal California regions to Kern County. The flowers are orange-yellow and bloom in May-June. Leaves are grass-like and flowers are in a star burst on long thin stems.

*Researched by Gahbriel Barragan, Sonia Portales, Holly Goldstein*



**Dichelostemma pulchellum**  
(Blue Dicks)  
CWW/CH, CSS, G

This plant grows to 2 feet high on hillsides and plains in coastal areas of Southern California. The plant grows a delicate flower stalk with blue flowers in clusters of 4 to 10.

*Researched by Holly Goldstein*

### VINES AND CLIMBING SHRUBS



**Calystegia macrostegia**  
(Wild Morning Glory)  
CSS

This vining plant is usually a perennial. It produces white trumpet-like flowers that are 2 inches across. It is related to the parasitic plant Dodder or Witches Hair. It needs a warm climate, dirt, water and something to climb on.

*Researched by Megan Goldstein, Ashley Sipchen*

**Cucurbita foetidissima**  
(Coyote Melon, Coyote Gourd, Calabazilla)  
CSS, D

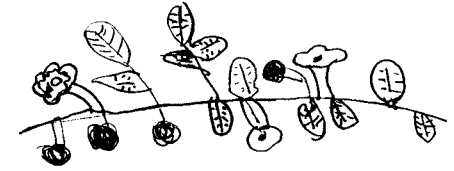
This trailing gray-green vine has a strong scent. It grows bright orange flowers and dull light green fruit.

*Researched by Megan Goldstein*

**Datura wrightii**  
also known as *d. metaloides*  
(Jimson Weed)  
CSS, D

The Jimson Weed needs to live in warm places. It has flowers in May. This vine grows 1 - 5 feet long and lives for one year. The fruit is hard and prickly. Snakes hide in it and birds eat the seeds. The Jimson Weed has huge white or purplish white flowers.

*Researched by Jennifer Kampe*



**Lonicera subspicata**  
(Southern Honeysuckle)  
Reintroduced 1994  
CWW/CH

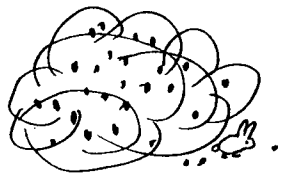
This plant is found in the northern temperate zone. It has terminal spikes in the summer, begins to flower in the spring and summer. It has yellow or red berries and is an important food source for animals.

*Researched by Raymond Meza, Alec Christensen, Carolyn Molina*

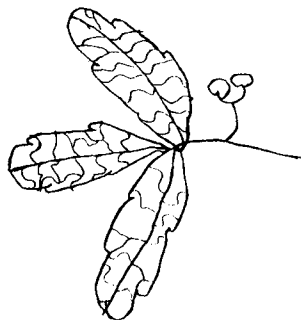
**Marah macrocarpus**  
(Wild Cucumber, Man-Root)  
*various communities*

Found from central California southward, this plant likes dry places below 3,000 feet. It is found in castal sage scrub, chaparral and southern oak woodland. It has 12 to 14 seeds in a spiny, prickly saucer-shaped "gourd". The juice is poisonous. It climbs with tendrils up to 20 feet and has a large carrot-like root. The root can get as big as a man.

*Researched by Raymond Meza*



**Rubus urcinus**  
(Blackberry)  
various plant communities  
This thorny perennial bears fruit only during the second year. Its berries are a good food source for animals.  
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*



**Toxicodendron diversiloba**  
(Poison Oak)  
CWW/CH  
This relative of sumac is a low growing semi-vine with white berries. The oils in the plant cause skin irritation, hence the phrase "leaves of three, let it be". The plant's three-leaf formation helps you identify it in the wild.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein, Libby McCann*

**SMALL AND MEDIUM SHRUBS**

**Artemesia californica**  
(Coastal Sagebrush)  
CSS  
This plant has small grayish-green leaves. Some sagebrush were used as medicinal tea or hair rinse. The seeds of others were pounded into meal or eaten raw.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein*

**Baccharis pilularis**  
(Coyote Brush)  
CSS  
This brush comes out in the late summer season. When it comes out the gall midge (a fly) flocks to this plant and puts galls (abnormal swellings of plant tissue) on it.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein*

**Baccharis salicifolia**  
(Mule Fat)  
CSS, CWW, S, D  
This plant can grow 3 - 12 feet high. It has slender green leaves and starlike flowers. Wildlife eats it.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein*



**Encelia californica**  
(Bush Sunflower)  
CSS  
It grows 3 feet high and has yellow flowerheads 2 - 3 inches across with brown centers. It blooms from March to June and can be very showy. It was given its name because it turns its head to follow the sun.  
*Researched by Gregory Clark*

**Eriogonum fasciculatum**  
(California Buckwheat)  
CSS  
This plant has six different names, some of them being sulphur flower, antelope sage and skeleton weed. There are 104 species of buckwheat. This buckwheat has clusters of small white flowers. The bush is 3 - 6 feet tall. The root tubers and seeds can be eaten.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein*

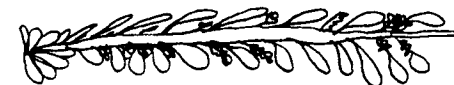
**Keckiella cordifolia**  
(Heartleaved Penstemon)  
CWW/CH  
*single specimen found in 1994, additional plants re-introduced*  
The plant's stems are long and straggling -- up to eight feet long. The stems will climb over bushes. Leaves are oval and veiny. The flowers are tubular and have scarlet corollas. They grow in canyons and hillsides in southern California's coastal regions.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein*



**Rhamnus crocea**  
(Redberry)  
*reintroduced in 1994*  
CWW/CH  
Redberry grows to 3 feet high in coastal southern California and Sierra Nevada foothills. Leaves are roundish and scalloped at edges. Flowers produce bright red berries.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein, Emily Sipchen*

**Ribes aureum**  
(Golden Current)  
CWW  
This plant is a type of gooseberry. It flowers from January to April and is an important food source for wildlife.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein*

**Rosa californica**  
(California Rose)  
CWW/DR  
This wild rose lives below 6,000 feet in several different plant communities, especially canyon bottoms. It easily grows to 9 feet, has large flowers and likes full sun. The fruit is called rose hips which animals eat. The are high in vitamin C, and Native Americans used them for medicine.  
*Researched by Leah Zivalic*



**Salvia apiana**  
(White Sage)  
CSS  
"Bee Sage" can grow up to 8 feet. The flower spikes are lavender to pale white. The leaves have short fuzzy hairs on them and smell good. The leaves are 4 inches long and are light gray to white. It likes soil that does not have much water. It doesn't lose its leaves and flowers in late spring. People can plant the seeds or cuttings. Salvia is a healing herb that Native Americans used for breathing problems. It is a sacred plant for them and is used in ceremonies to purify.  
*Researched by Clarity Guerra*



## FRIENDS OF ELYRIA CANYON

"Friends of Elyria Canyon" is a group of people who volunteer to help restore the native habitat in Elyria Canyon. Activities change throughout the year to match the seasons – planting in Fall and Winter, weeding and propagation in Spring, seed gathering and planning in the summer.

"Friends" meet the last Saturday of every month (Holidays excepted) at 8:30 or 9:00 at the red barn, and usually stay until noon. Everyone is welcome to come and help support Elyria. Visitors are invited to come and learn more about native plants in Elyria. For more information you may leave a message on the North East Trees Action Line at (213) 221-1778.

We hope to see you next month!  
Lynnette Kampe

**Salvia mellifera**  
(Black sage)  
CSS

It is found on grassy dry hillsides in Southern California. It has a strong scent and purple to almost white flowers. It is the most common sage and its habitat is being destroyed.  
*Researched by Claire Fraser*

**Solanum sp,**  
**probably Solanum xantii**  
(Nightshade) reintroduced 1995  
CWW/CH

The plant bears fruit and flowers and grows 1 - 12 feet tall. It is the most common openly-branched shrub of the desert. Cattle do not eat the leaves though. Some are poison.  
*Researched by Holly Goldstein*



**Symphoricarpos mollis**  
(Creeping Snowberry)  
CWW/CH

This is a delicate 3 feet tall shrub with small tubular flowers, oval leaves and ovoid fruit. The white berries are poisonous.  
*Researched by Holly Goldstein, Alec Christensen*

## LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES

**Rhamnus californica**  
(Coffeeberry)  
reintroduced 1994  
CWW/DR

This is a 1 - 4 meter evergreen bush. It produces a coffee-bean-like berry. The plant has 3 - 8 cm. oblong oval leaves.  
*Researched by Megan Goldstein*

**Rhamnus ilicifolia**  
(Hollyleafed Redberry)  
reintroduced in 1994  
CWW/CH

This large shrub is often confused with the holly-leaved cherry. It is an evergreen shrub with waxy leaves and berry-like fruit.

*Researched by Megan Goldstein*



**Rhus integrifolia**  
(Lemonadeberry)  
CSS

The Lemonadeberry shrub gives food and shelter to animals. The berries taste like sour lemonade. Flies, bees, aphids, squirrels, crows, raccoons, coyotes, skunks, opossums, mice and gophers eat lemonadeberries. Snakes, lizards, salamanders, moles and hawks hunt in the lemonade berry shrub for the animals they need to eat. The leaves are broad, spiky on the edge, dusty-looking, soft and slippery, and smell good. The berries are flat, purple and red and juicy. It grows up to fifteen feet high, next to poison oak, toyon and black walnut trees.

*Researched by Asal Gharib, Johnny Preis, and Ms. Sosa's Room 1 Kindergarten p.m.*

**Rhus laurina**  
also known as Malosma laurina  
(Laurel Sumac)  
CSS

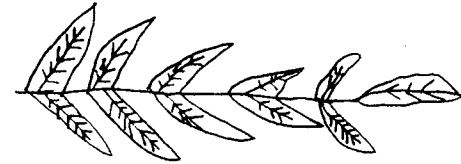
Laurel sumac grows in a wall 5 meters tall. It is an evergreen bush and can heal wounds on animals. It has small, pale yellow flowers. Rats build their houses in it.

*Researched by Holly Goldstein*

## TREES

**Heteromeles arbutifolia**  
(Toyon)  
CWW/CH

This tree bears fruit that looks like holly berries. The bark and leaves can be used to make tea to cure stomach-aches. The tree is an evergreen, either a tree or a shrub. Its flowers bloom in June and July. The leaves are pointy and toothed. The tree is 6 - 30 feet high. It has been called the "Holly Berry", which is how Hollywood got its name.  
*Researched by Holly Goldstein, Jessica Marter-Kenyon*



**Juglans californica**  
(California Black Walnut)  
CWW

This tree has grey bark. The nut has a blackish shell. Native Americans harvested and ate the nuts when available. They are sweet and nutritious. This tree is found only in Southern California and is in danger of disappearing due to development.

*Researched by Alejandra Gillette-Teran, Christopher, Holly Goldstein, Jessica Kenyon, Libby McCann*

## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

**Platanus racemosa**  
(California Sycamore)  
1994 three specimens planted to shade the barn, no more planned.  
CWW/IS

This tree has an enlarged thick trunk and large crown of spreading branches. It grows 40 - 80 feet tall and has 6 - 8 inch star-shaped leaves and 7/8 inch spiky seed balls.

Researched by Holly Goldstein

**Prunus lyonii**  
(Catalina cherry)  
CWW/CH

This tree grows 40 feet high. Its fruit is rounded and dark purple with thick, sweetish pulp. Native Americans ate the fruit fresh and dried. This plant is native to Catalina Island.

Researched by Holly Goldstein

**Prunus ilicifolia ssp. ilicifolia**  
(Hollyleafed Cherry)  
reintroduced 1994  
CWW/CH

This evergreen tree or large shrub has spiny-toothed leaves with sweet red fruit with a large pit. The pit was ground and eaten by Native Americans after the cyanide was leached out. Wildlife eat fruit from this tree. It has many clusters of cream colored flowers. It grows on dry slopes, riparian and chaparral settings and foothill woodlands.

Researched by Nora Rohman, Jessica Kenyon, Holly Goldstein

**Quercus agrifolia**  
(Coast Live Oak) Single sapling found, believed to have been planted by a jay. It is not recommended for reintroduction, in order to preserve the existing character of Elyria Canyon.  
CWW

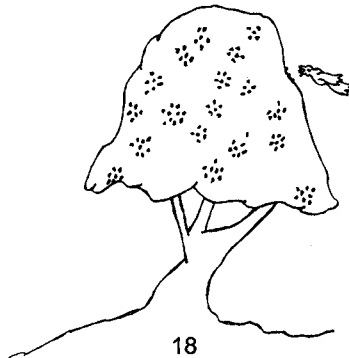
This tree has sharp saw-like leaves, a lot of foliage and acorns. It grows 20 - 70 feet high. It is found in California, Oregon, Arizona and New Mexico. There are male and female flowers on the same tree. The fertilized female flower turns into a nut called an acorn, which is eaten by the blue jays, squirrels, mice, rats, skunks and opossums which also live in the tree. Other animals that use the tree for food and protection are lizards and insects.

Researched by Reed Wong, Chris Shuan, Cody Molina

**Sambucus mexicana**  
(Blue Elderberry)  
CWW, CSS, S

This tree is found along the coast of California north into British Columbia. It also crosses the Sierra Nevada. It likes warm dry landscapes. It grows up to 18 feet high and is a mounding plant with a round dome. It has tiny white flowers from April to August. Its blue berries are used in making wine, juices and pies. Canyon animals use it for shelter and food. Birds eat the berries.

Researched by Leah Zivalic, Jessica Kenyon, Angelica Molina



## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

**The Story of the Southern California Black Walnut**  
By Pam Marx, Eagle Rock 4-H Leader

The Southern California Black Walnut tree's scientific name is *Juglans californica*. *Juglan* means "nut of Jupiter". The tree was named in 1875 by Sereno Watson, a botanist from Harvard University. It is found only in southern California.

This tree grows in canyons, stream beds and sloping hillsides. It prefers ground facing a northerly direction, and grows best in deep soil founded on shales or sandstones. The soil above these types of rock formations -- at one time covered by the ocean -- is high in calcium, which is important to the growth of the Black Walnut.

This tree goes through many changes in its lifetime. It grows quickly from seedling to mature young tree. Young trees have smooth gray bark. As the tree grows older, the bark turns dark brown and becomes deeply furrowed. In spring the contrast between its new pale green leaves and bark is striking. An important feature of this tree is its ability to resprout after a fire. Multiple trunks usually result.

While its nut meat is a tasty, rich source of protein, it is covered by a very hard shell. Squirrels and some other animals that live in southern California hillsides have strong jaws and sharp teeth. As they gather and store the nut for food, they help spread the seed to new places. In some of these places the walnut will begin to grow.

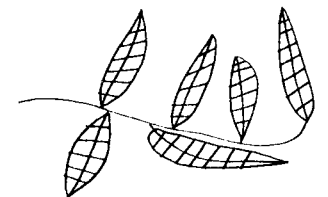
When people first arrived in southern California about 7500 years ago, this tree was a common sight in foothill and lowland areas. Since a large part of the food these early people ate came from plants, seeds and roots, it is likely that they ate the nuts of this tree. The walnut was an abundant,

tasty source of protein and fat, and unlike the acorn, did not have to be leached or cleaned of harmful acids before eating.

While later Native Americans relied more on acorns as a major part of their diet, some researchers think that this may have been because earlier peoples harvested the Black Walnut so heavily that fewer walnut tree woodlands grew. This would have forced later Native Americans to turn to a more plentiful food source such as acorns.

As cities in southern California have grown, entire Black Walnut woodlands have been cut down to make room for houses and streets, offices and freeways. The growth of these cities has caused the loss of open spaces where the Black Walnut might have sprouted new trees.

Today, the Southern California Black Walnut faces an uncertain future. Each tree has only a short lifespan -- rarely more than 150 years. For its continued existence, the tree relies on new seedlings. With the loss of open spaces in southern California, there are fewer and fewer places for seedlings to sprout and thrive. This tree could soon find itself with no place to call home. If this happens, the tree with the nut of Jupiter could only be a memory.



## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

### NATIVE PLANTS FOR REVEGETATION AND RESTORATION OF ELYRIA CANYON

*Developed by Verna Jigour, botanist consultant for North East Trees*

*Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy level of approval indicated in italics:*

#### GRASSES

**Melica imperfecta** (Coast Range Melic) CSS

*Highly recommended*

**Nassella (Stipa) lepida** (Foothill Needlegrass) G, CWW/CH, CSS

*Highly recommended*

#### ANNUALS

**Clarkia unguiculata** (Elegant Clarkia) CWW/CH, G

*awaiting final approval*

**Eschscholzia californica** (California Poppy) CSS, G (sometimes perennial)

*approved*

**Lathyrus laetiflorus** (Wild Sweet Pea) CWW/CH, CSS

*awaiting final approval*

**Lupinus bicolor ssp. microphyllus** (Minature Lupine) CSS, G

*awaiting final approval*

**Lupinus succulentus** (Arroyo Lupine) CSS, G

*Approved*

**Nemophila menziesii** (Baby Blue Eyes) CWW, G

*awaiting final approval*

Baby Blue Eyes bloom early in March. They like slopes and flat lands and have turquoise flowers with a white center. This species is handsome with the

California Poppy. *Researched by Robin Clay*

**Orthocarpus purpurascens** (Owl's Clover) G

*awaiting final approval*

**Salvia columbariae** (Chia)

*awaiting final approval*

#### PERENIALS

**Asclepias fascicularis** (Narrow-leaved Milkweed) CWW/CH, CSS

*approved*

**Castilleja affinis var. contentious** (Indian Paintbrush) CSS

*awaiting final approval*

**Satureja douglasii** (Yerba Buena) S

*awaiting final approval*

**Thalictrum polycarpum** (Meadow Rue) CWW

*awaiting final approval*

**Viola pedunculata** (Johnny-Jump-Up) CWW/CH, CSS

*approved*

## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

#### BULBS

**Calochortus clavatus ssp. pallidus** (Mariposa Lilly) CWW/CH, CSS

*awaiting final approval*

**Dichelostemma pulchella** (Blue Dicks, Wild Hyacinth)

CWW/CH, CSS, G

*approved*

#### SMALL TO MEDIUM SHRUBS

**Eriophyllum confertiflorum** (Golden Yarrow) CSS

*highly recommended*

**Mimulus aurantiacus** (Bush monkeyflower) CWW/CH

*approved*

**Solanum xantii** (Chaparral Nightshade) CWW/CH

*approved*

#### MEDIUM TO LARGE SHRUBS

**Prunus ilicifolia ssp. ilicifolia** (Hollyleaf Cherry) CWW/CH

*highly recommended*

**Rhamnus californica** (California Coffeeberry) CWW/DR

*highly recommended*

**Rhamnus crocea** (Redberry) CWW/CH

*highly recommended*

**Rhamnus ilicifolia (R. crocea ssp. ilicifolia)** (Hollyleaf Redberry, Buckthorn)  
CWW/CH

*highly recommended*

**Rosa californica** (California Wild Rose) CWW/DR

*approved*

#### VINES

**Lonicera subspicata** (Chaparral Honeysuckle) CWW/CH

*highly recommended*



## ELYRIA CANYON PLANTS

### NON-NATIVE PLANTS CURRENTLY FOUND IN ELYRIA CANYON

**Conium maculatum**

(Poison Hemlock)

This plant came from Europe. It grows 5 feet high and 3 feet wide. A famous king died before the age of ten by eating it.

*Researched by Nicholas Garcia*

**Foeniculum vulgare**

(Fennel)

**Cynara cardunculus**

(Cardoon, Artichoke Thistle)

**Cirsium spp.**

(Thistle)

**Lactuca serriola**

(Prickly Lettuce)

**Picris echioides**

(Bristly Ox-tongue)

**Silybum marianum**

(Milk Thistle)

**Sonchus spp.**

(Sow Thistle)

**Brassica nigra**

(Black mustard)

**Raphanus sativus**

(Wild Radish)

**Opuntia ficus-indica**

(Prickly Pear) cultivated species which hybridizes with the native species

**Chenopodium sp.** (Pigweed, Goose-foot)

**Salsola tragus**

(Russian Thistle, Tumbleweed) *S.*

*australis*, *S. iberica*, *S. kali* var.

*tenuifolia*)

**Ipomoea purpurea**

(Common Morning-Glory)

**Crassula argentea**

(Jade Plant)

**Ricinus communis**

(Castor Bean)

**Melilotus indicus**

(Yellow Sweetclover)

**Vicia villosa ssp. villosa**

(Winter or Hairy Vetch)

**Spartium junceum**

(Spanish Broom)

**Marrubium vulgare**

(Horehound)

**Malva spp.**

(Common Mallow, Cheeseweed)

**Passiflora spp.**

(Passionflower)

**Arundo donax**

(Giant Reed)

**Avena fatua**

(Oats)

**Bromus diandrus**

(Ripgut Grass)

**Bromus laevis ssp. rubens**

(Foxtail Chess) *B. rubens*

**Bromus spp.** (Brome)

**Rumex crispus**

(Curly Dock)

**Cotoneaster lacteus**

(Red Clusterberry)

**Cotoneaster sp.**

(Cotoneaster)

**Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii**

(Catalina Cherry)

*native to Catalina Island*

**Ailanthus altissima**

(Tree-Of-Heaven)

**Nicotiana glauca**

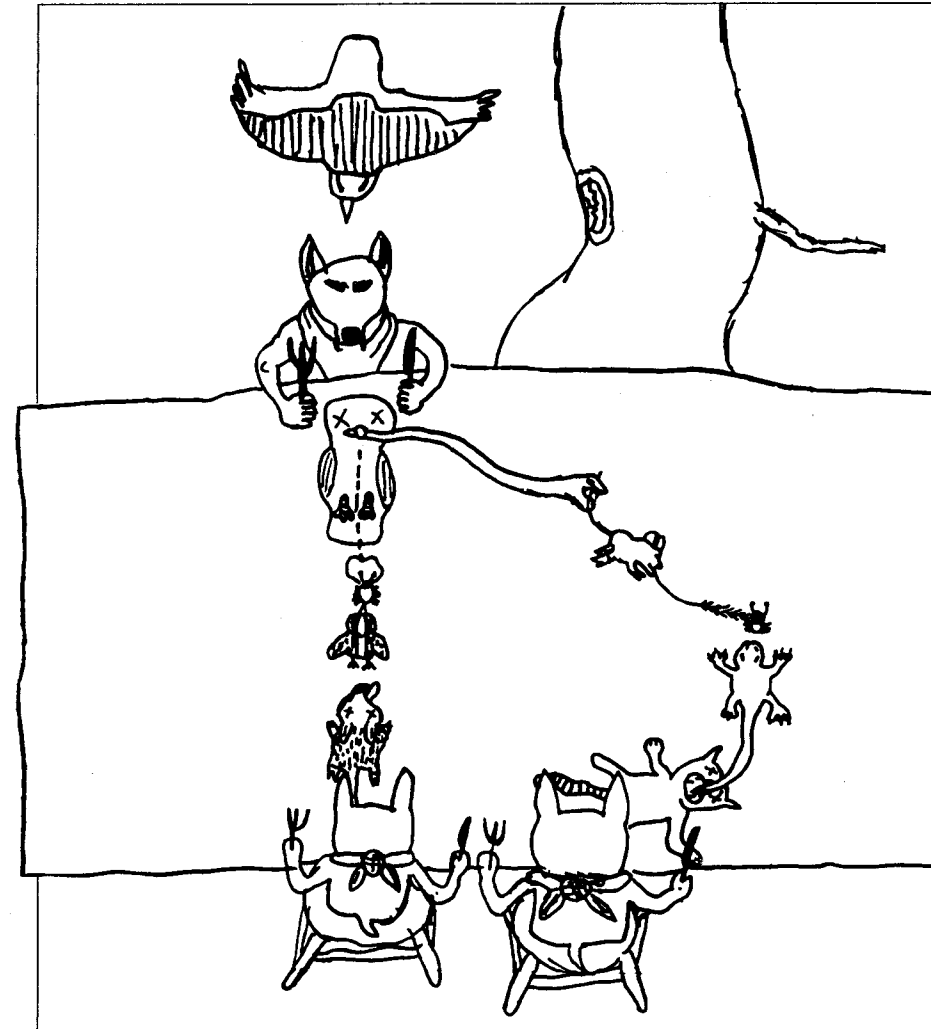
(Tree Tobacco)

**Solanum americanum**

(Nightshade)

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS

# WHO EATS WHO IN ELYRIA CANYON



*Illustrated by Jacobo Walker*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS

### WHY ARE THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF ELYRIA CANYON IMPORTANT?

By Ashley Sipchen, Editor-In-Chief

Source: Julian Donahue, Entomologist, Los Angeles Museum of Natural History

1. The plants need the animals to pollinate the flowers in order for them to reproduce.
2. When an animal like a earthworm burrows through the soil, it brings air into it, making it a better environment for plants to grow.
3. Dead animal or plant matter is broken down in the natural environment so that microorganisms can complete the process of nutrient-recycling through plant decomposition.
4. The herbivores at the bottom of the food chain need to eat plants. Some herbivores are insects, squirrels, mice, rabbits, and some birds. Other animals need to eat those animals to survive.
5. The seeds of native plants are eaten by birds and mammals and are spread out over the canyon by their elimination.
6. In order for the food web to work there must be animals for other animals to eat.
7. In order for the population of Elyria Canyon to be kept under control naturally, we need predators and parasites.
8. Predators eat the sick or weak animals, so they are killed off and are not able to spread the sickness or weakness among the rest of the population of reproducing animals. This way, inferior genes are not passed on through generations.
9. Elyria Canyon is a great place for people to enjoy learning about nature. We can bird watch, observe trees, take photographs and watch animals.
10. We are the only animals that will be able to protect Elyria Canyon. But not so long ago we were close to being the destroyer. I don't know about you but I think many people would rather be protectors than destroyers. Let's keep that thought in mind.

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

Student Editors: Annie Preis, Keesha Hernandez, Robin Clay, Raymond Meza, Brendan Speltz

Parent Coordinator: Cardie Molina

Scientists classify animals into certain large groups called phyla (the plural of phylum) and classes. Animals in these groups have many traits in common and have common ancestors. Because the only way to be sure of what animals are in Elyria Canyon is to "live" trap them, we have included the animals that we think are there.

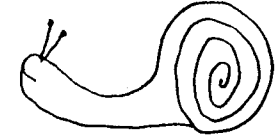
### ANNELIDS CLASS: OLIGOCHAETES

#### Earthworms

Earthworms are found all over the world. They live in cool damp climates, under rotting wood, in groups, and come out at night. They deposit their eggs in cocoons. They eat dead plants. To some people the earthworm is like a tube inside a tube, because their digestive system runs straight from the mouth to the anus. This is where the dirt and dead plants get mixed together into fertilizer. It comes out the anus as "castings". When they burrow they aerate the soil, which makes the soil fluffy and richer. Earthworms are sensitive to light yet do not have eyes. Instead, they have photo sensors around their bodies. They can feel vibration but can not hear. And they have "setae" (bristles) which help them burrow.

Researched by Annie Preis, Deborah Seval

### GASTROPODS CLASS: MOLLUSKS



#### Snails

(*Helix aspersa*)

The garden snail is found in North and South America, Australia, Africa and Europe. It eats plants, lays eggs, and lives in dirt and rocks. They are sometimes carnivorous and hibernate over winter.

Researched by Robin Clay, Marika Piday-Warren

#### Slugs



(*Arion hortensis*)

A slug is a form of snail with lungs and eyes at the end of antennae. They live in soil, are nocturnal and covered with mucus. They eat plant tissue, are hermaphrodites, and reproduce through eggs. They have 27,000 teeth, crawl with the foot muscle, and can move 3 inches in one minute.

Researched by Marika Piday-Warren, Sarah Lucey, Annie Preis

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### CRUSTACEANS



#### Isopod

Isopods like dark, wet places. They have an exoskeleton, a flat oval body and 7 pair of legs. They can roll into a ball for protection. They breath through their legs, eat vegetation, but also eat each other.

*Researched by Annie Preis*

### ARTHROPODS CLASS: INSECTS

#### ORDER: COLLEMBOLA

(springtails; species to be determined)  
These tiny insects lack wings and live under bark. Usually they eat plants but are sometimes parasites. "Collembola" means "glue peg" which refers to the tube coming out of the abdomen which helps it move forward. They can be red, white, orange, purple or yellow.

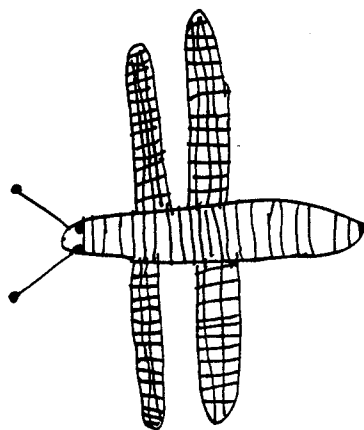
*Researched by Annie Preis*

#### ORDER: ODONATA

(dragonflies and damselflies)

This large sized insect has 4 wings and eyes that bulge to the side. It is brightly colored and has good eyesight. It can't fold its wings. It lives by itself and eats small insects, especially mosquitoes. The male holds the female by the neck when mating. It lays clumps of eggs on the surface of water. Dragonflies and damselflies have been around for 300 million years. In North America there are over 400 species.

*Researched by Annie Preis, Raymond Meza*



#### Green Darner

(Anax junius)

This is the fastest and biggest of dragonflies. They breed north and south. It lays its eggs in the stem of a plant. It has a green thorax and a blue-purple grey abdomen.

*Researched by Robin Clay*

#### Big Red Skimmer

(Libelula saturata)

This looks like a big bug with big wings. It eats small flying insects. It is swift and slim, and can fly in one spot. It has a big mouth and bulging eyes, and eats up mosquitoes.

*Researched by Kimberly Gonzalez, Zac Duardo*

#### Damselfly

(species undetermined)

This animal is found worldwide and prefers to be near water. It prefers to fly and can not walk easily. It eats insects, tadpoles and small fish.

*Researched by Annie Preis*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### ORDER: BLATTODEA

(cockroaches)

These nocturnal animals can be found under the bark of dead trees during the day, or other dark moist places. They are the most ancient of living insects. They are omnivorous but prefer to eat plants. The body is flat with long antennae.

*Researched by Libby McCann*

#### American Cockroach

(Periplaneta americana)

Cockroaches are easy to raise. They are a pest in some places. Cockroaches like being in gloomy places and are actually very clean animals, they wash themselves often by constantly licking their legs and antennae. They are at most 2 inches long, reddish brown, and the adult wings cover the abdomen. They are scavengers and usually eat outside, swarming around when they find food.

*Researched by Alejandro Oarlle, Jason Scher, Annie Preis*



#### Sand Dune Roach

(Arenivaga species)

The males look like normal cockroaches with full wings, the females do not have wings. They are nocturnal and attracted to lights. They prefer to live in deserts and sandy places. Males are a shade of pale brown. If you would ever want to find a female, you should look for them burrowed under sand.

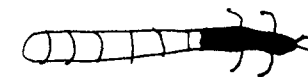
*Researched by Olivia Arreola, Annie Preis*

### ORDER: ISOPTERA

(termites)

Termites have soft bodies and live together in a nest with a queen and king. The young adults are soldiers. They feed on wood.

*Researched by Bobby Sipchen*



#### Subterranean Termite

This insect is found in the west where wood is in contact with the ground. It lives in wood 3 - 5 feet above ground. It cleans up wood debris from the surface of the earth. It reproduces in wet wooden structures, and can turn wood into digestible sugar. Most older wooden homes have been damaged by this insect.

*Researched by Robin Clay*

### ORDER: ORTHOPTERA

(crickets, grasshoppers, katydids)

These animals have large hind legs for jumping. They are not good at flying and can hear very well. They use grass for camouflage and eat plants. Males attract a mate with a song made by rubbing its body parts together. This order also includes locusts.

*Researched by Annie Preis*

#### Katydid

This green animal lays its eggs on twigs and has one generation per year.

*Researched by Rachel Alexander*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### Gray Bird Grasshopper

(*Schistocerca nitens*)

This animal is found on shrubbery. It lays eggs, eats plants and changes colors according to the seasons. The young shed their skin five times. The adults die each winter and when the eggs hatch in the spring they don't have any parents. They make music with their legs and wings.

*Researched by Lauren Every-Wortman*

### Jerusalem Cricket

(*Stenopelmatus* species)

This cricket has many names, one of them is "potato bug". They live in the soil and eat roots. They are large and wingless.

*Researched by Mario Campuzano*

## ORDER: DERMAPTERA

(earwigs)

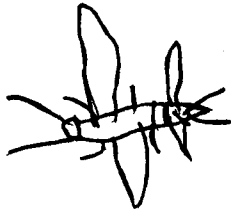
This brown, slender insect has sharp pincers on the tip of the abdomen, which it uses to catch ants. It hides during the day and feeds at night. The mother puts her eggs in a nest and cares for the young until they are ready to feed themselves. They are ugly but do not bite. And they don't crawl into people's ears.

*Researched by Emily Sipchen*

### Earwig

This beetle-like insect can be found under a stone, a piece of wood or a stack of lumber. No one knows how the Earwigs got their name. It is popularly believed that they crawl into people's ears but they don't.

*Researched by Nic Gandara*



## ORDER: EMBIOPTERA

(webspinners)

### Black Webspinner

(*Oligotorma nitens*)

These uncommon brown or yellow insects live in groups inside their webs, which they spin in moss or dirt. The females eat plants and the males eat animals.

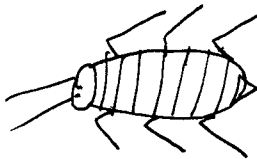
*Researched by Johnny Preis*

## ORDER: HEMIPTERA

(true bugs, hoppers, aphids, scales)

Most true bugs are plant eaters although some eat other insects. Usually they have four wings and a pursing, sucking mouth. The eggs hatch into small, wingless nymphs that resemble the adult form.

*Researched by Keesha Hernandez*



### Aphids

Aphids are found everywhere in the U.S. but winter in the sun belt. They have long piercing mouthparts which they use to drain fluids from its host. They give birth to fully formed babies. It takes only 5 to 6 days for a baby to reach adulthood. The Aphids can have up to 50 generations in one year!

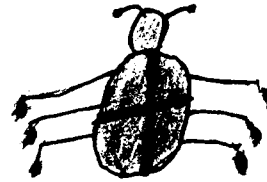
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### Scales

When this little creature is a new nymph it crawls onto a spot on a leaf and sticks to it. The "scale" is a separate shell which protects the insect while it grows into a big blob without any legs and can't move any more and just rests where it feeds.

*Researched by Jason Scher*



### Harlequin Bug

(*Murantia histrionica*)

The Harlequin Bug is called the "stink bug" and the "calico back bug". It has a pattern of bright red and yellow on its black back. It also has a "plus sign" on its back. It likes mustard plants and its eggs look as if they have been colored.

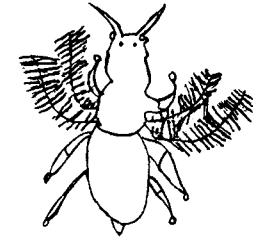
*Researched by Caia Vermeul-Taback, Mario Campuzano*

### Assasin Bug

(species undetermined)

This bug has a bad reputation. It is also called the kissing bug because it can bite sleeping persons on the lips.

*Researched by Jason Scher*



## ORDER: THYSANOPTERA

### Thrips

Thrips are found in flowers, especially the Encelia sunflower. They are small insects and not easy to find. On their wings they have hairs that look like eyelashes. They are strongly armored.

*Researched by Libby McCann*

## ORDER: NEUROPTERA

(nerve-winged insects)

These insects are soft-bodied and generally poor fliers, in spite of their well-developed twin pair of wings. They have big antennae and chewing mouth parts. They eat other insects that are pests, like aphids. Entomologists consider nerve winged insects to be the most primitive living insect that undergoes complete metamorphosis.

*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*

### Ant Lion

(species undetermined)

It is found in the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains. It builds funnel-shaped pits dug by larvae and lives in the pits in groups. It is nocturnal, and uses plants to hide from enemies. It is also known as the "doodle bug". It sucks out the juices of its prey.

*Researched by Raymond Meza*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### Green Lacewing

(Chrysopa species)

This animal has a pale yellow body, compound eyes and threadlike antennae. It is found in meadows, gardens and forest edges throughout North America. It eats small insects and lays its eggs on the underside of a leaf.

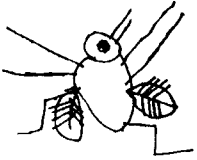
*Researched by Annie Preis*

### Snakefly

(Agulla species)

The snakefly looks like a snake because it has a very long neck. It feeds on small soft-bodied insects, like scales, midges and aphids, which makes it a good bug for the garden. It lives on trees in springtime, mainly in hilly areas. The larvae can be found under the bark of trees.

*Researched by Mario Campuzano*



## ORDER: DIPTERA

(true flies)

This order covers gnats, midges and flies. There are over 80,000 different kinds of species in the world. Gnats and midges are small and frail, with long legs. Flies have stronger bodies, with short legs. They are fast fliers and have a complete metamorphosis. The larvae are worm-like maggots.

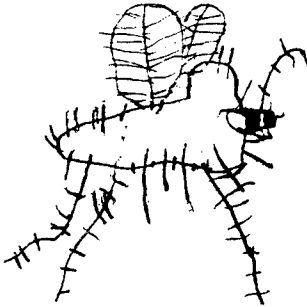
*Researched by Emily Sipchen*

### Fungus Gnat

(species undetermined)

Fungus Gnats are small to medium in size. They are reddish or brownish or yellowish. They are most common in dark damp places.

*Researched by Marc Wiele*



### Gall Midges

(Family Cecidomyiidae)

These are small delicate gnats. They have long legs and fat wings. Some eat dead plants, some eat tiny insects, but most eat up plants from the inside. This causes a deformation or gall in the plant. There are probably over 400 different species of this family in California, each eating a different species of host plant.

*Researched by Geneva Burleigh, Johnny Preis*

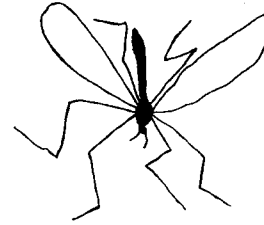
### Mosquito

(species undetermined)

Female mosquitoes feed on the blood of vertebrate animals, male mosquitoes feed on nectar and fruit juice. The larvae, found often just below the surface of water, are active and sometimes are called "wigglers".

*Researched by Marika Piday Warren*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES



### Crane Fly

(species undetermined)

This fly has wings that are too narrow and legs that are too long, making it look a lot like a giant mosquito. They can't bite you though because they have soft mouth parts. They feed on decaying organic matter in meadows, grassy hillsides and wooded areas.

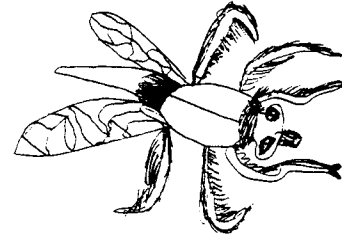
*Researched by Mario Campuzano, Johnny Preis*

### Black Soldier Fly

(Hermetia illucens)

It feeds on blood from other insects. It is also called the Window Fly.

*Researched by Raymond Meza*



### Robber Flies

(several species)

Robber Flies steal food. They can kill another insect while in midflight. Their hind legs are stronger than the front legs. They hide their eggs inside the structure of a plant. The larvae live in the soil and eat other subterranean insects.

*Researched by Jonathan Raspa, Carolyn Molina*

### Bee Flies

(Bombylius major)

They are called Bee Flies because of their fuzzy appearance and sound. They are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long. They live in bee nests and eat their larvae.

*Researched by Jessica Marter Kenyon*

### Cactus Fly

(Volucella mexicana)

This fly lays its eggs in bee nests. They are 2-3 inches long. They have a purplish black body.

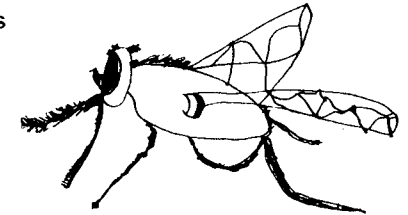
*Researched by Jessica Marter Kenyon*

### Hover Flies

(several species)

The Hover Fly can hover over its prey and then attack. Their latin name is *Syrphidae*. They are one of the best pollinators.

*Researched by Jessica Marter Kenyon*



### Little House Fly

(Fannia canicularis)

This insect is smaller and more slender than the House Fly. It lays its eggs in animal elimination. It can spread lots of diseases.

*Researched by Robin Clay, Carolyn Molina*

### Stable Fly

(Stomoxys calcitrans)

This fly is similar to the house fly. It sucks blood and is a moderate size, 12 mm. It develops in beach seaweed piles and hay near barns.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz*



## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### Blow Flies/Bottle Flies

(several species)

They eat other animals, dead or alive. The reason why it flies around is to find a place to lay its eggs. They are attracted to light and they use their smell to find food. They can be metallic green or blue colored. Some can lay their eggs inside a living mammal and some can suck blood.

*Researched by Alex Schmaltz, Adrian Gonzalez*

### Tachinid Flies

(several species, larvae are parasites of caterpillars)

The Tachinus does not also have a common name. They are 7-9 mil. long and reddish yellow.

*Researched by Jessica Marter Kenyon*

## ORDER: LEPIDOPTERA

(butterflies, moths)

There are over 11,000 butterflies and moths in North America. Antarctica is the only continent where they have not yet been found. The scales which cover their wings give them their color patterns. Different climatic conditions can make these color patterns change. They are by far the most popular of all insects.

*Researched by Keesha Hernandez, Angelica Molina*

### Alfalfa Semilooper

(*Autographa californica*)

It has dark spots on both its wings with a peachy or silvery center. It eats alfalfa. The larvae is a striped grass green.

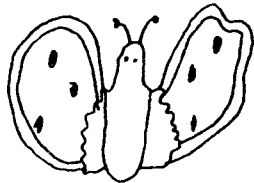
*Researched by Marika Piday Warren*

### Black Witch

(*Ascalapha odorata*; summer migrant, July-October)

This butterfly is also called the "Giant Noctuid" and has the largest wingspan of any insect in California. It is a tropical species, migrating from Mexico to Los Angeles. The larvae feed on acacia and pea family plants.

*Researched by Raymond Meza, Angelica Molina*



### Blue, Marine

(*Leptotes marina*)

This species emerges later in the spring than other blues. The larva eats the buds and blossoms of wisteria, alfalfa, locoweed and other legumes.

*Researched by Marika Piday Warren, Melissa Zabala*

### Blue, Pygmy

These are among the smallest of all butterflies. They are common here. They have tiny hairs on their stomachs. Its larvae is, luckily, camouflaged well on its food plant.

*Researched by Kim, Jackie Rivera, Anjelica Molina*

### Common Hairstreak

This butterfly is also called a Cotton Square Borer and Bean Lycaenid. It can do a lot of damage to crops. It overwinters in the pupal stage and emerges in the early spring.

*Researched by Jade Katona*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### Diamondback Moth

(*Plutella xylostella*)

This species probably occurs in more habitats than any other Californian moth. The adult colors are brown and black, the larvae colored pale green with yellow spots. They eat radishes and cabbages.

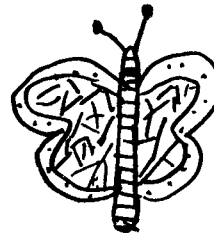
*Researched by Adrian Gonzalez, Jessica Marter Kenyon*

### Gulf Fritillary

Gulf Fritillaries have tiny legs that aren't good to walk on. They protect themselves from predators by tasting bad.

The larva like to eat passion flower leaves. They live all the way between South and North America.

*Researched by Clare Kelley*



### Monarch

(*Danaus plexippus*)

Some monarch butterflies fly south to Mexico for the winter. Sometimes there will be too heavy a cluster of monarch butterflies roosting on trees and the branches will fall and the butterflies will fall to the ground. And sometimes cows will come and put their tongues out and eat the monarch butterflies. Some people are ruining monarch's places, so it's up to us to save the monarchs.

*Researched by Xochitl Primavera Gomez, Clare Kelley*

### Mourning Cloak

(*Nymphalis antiopa*)

Mourning Cloaks are very beautiful. The inside of its wings are chocolate brown. The wings have pale yellow edges. Inside the yellow is a black band with blue spots. Inside that is a large quantity of brown leading to the body that is brown and black. The antennae are yellow with black tips. These butterflies like to visit both trees and grasslands and they lay their eggs around the twigs of the elm, willow, poplar and rose trees.

*Researched by Clare Kelley*

### Omnivorous Looper

(*Sabulodes aegrotata*)

Loopers are caterpillars called loopers because they hump their backs into loops when they crawl. Omnivorous means it eats everything.

*Researched by Clare Kelley*

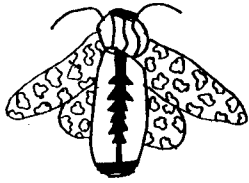
### Painted Lady

(*Vanessa cardui*)

Painted Ladies are called the cosmopolitan butterfly because of their wide range. There are usually two broods (two batches of butterfly eggs) a year. Painted Ladies are also called thistle butterflies because they will usually lay their eggs on thistle plants and the caterpillars eat thistles.

*Researched by Clare Kelley*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES



### Painted Tiger Moth

(*Arachnis picta*; adult moth in autumn)  
This animal can be seen at night from late September to October. Its wings are distinctly marked with broad wavy lines over a white background on the front wings, and over a red background on the back wings.

*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*

### Plume Moths

The Plume Moth is called that because its wings are split like a plume. The Plume Moth is very hairy. Its wingspan is only about 1/2 inch across.

*Researched by Clare Kelley*

### Red Admiral

(*Vanessa atalanta*)

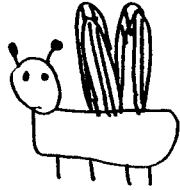
Red Admiral caterpillars hatch from single eggs that the mother butterfly lays in stinging nettles. It is black with red and white spots. There are bits of blue on the bottom wings and on the top wings there are little streaks of purple. After they're born they fold the leaf into a sort of tent to keep them protected from critters such as birds, mice, and rats.

*Researched by Clare Kelley*

### Sara Orange Tip (*Anthocharis sara*)

This is a medium size white butterfly with orange tips. As a caterpillar it is green with small black tubercles. It is found in the western United States. It likes to live in meadows and edges of woods. As a butterfly it drinks the juice out of flowers, and as a caterpillar it eats the leaves.

*Researched by Joanna Lopez*



### Skipper, Fiery

(*Hylephila phyleus*)

This butterfly is pale brown. It hides in grass and eats it.

*Researched by Jennifer Kampe, Libby McCann*

### Skipper, Funereal

(*Erynnis Funeralis*)

This butterfly is also known as "Funereal Duskywing". The larvae feed on pea family plants. Adults can be seen from February to October.

*Researched by Krystal Henry, Sara Malloy*

### Skipper, Umber

(*Paratrytone melane*)

This butterfly is dark brown with golden yellow spots. It usually lives in moist well vegetated areas.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz*

### Swallowtail, Anise

(*Papilio polixenes zelicaon*)

This is the most common butterfly west of the Rocky Mountains. The larvae feed on anise or sweet fennel of the carrot family.

*Researched by Marika Piday Warren*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES



### Swallowtail, Pale

(*Papilio eurymedon*)

They are pale cream and are spotted with shiny aquamarine purple and bright green. They like to live in bushy walnut trees, preferably black walnut trees.

*Researched by Jessica Marter Kenyon, Alec Christensen*

### Swallowtail, Western Tiger

(*Papilio rutulus*)

This butterfly feeds on willow, poplar and plants of the moist western areas. It is yellow and black in the middle of the wings, blue, orange, yellow and black on the edges of the wings. The larva is green and yellow and black.

*Researched by Caia Vermuel-Taback, Shenan Price*

### Underwing Moth

(species undetermined: larva feeds on oak)

They are red, orange, black or blue.

They are quite large and showy, but not often seen. They are normally nocturnal but some species come out in the day.

*Researched by Adrian Gonzalez, Jessica Marter Kenyon*

### Vestal Tiger Moth

(*Spilosoma vestalis*; adult moth in early spring)

This moth is immediately recognizable because of the conspicuous red fore legs of the adult, which is pure white.

*Researched by Jade Katona*

### Virginia Lady

(*Vanessa virginiensis*)

This butterfly is scarce in Los Angeles. It migrates and feeds on weeds.

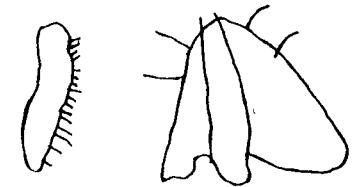
*Researched by Nora Rohman*

### West Coast Lady

(*Vanessa annabella*)

The butterfly habituates flowerbeds, fields, mountain canyons, slopes and empty lots. It is many different colors: orange, blue, white and black.

*Researched by Olivia Arreola*



### White-lined Sphinx Moth

(*Hyles lineata*)

This moth is also called the Striped Morning Sphinx. It swarms in spring. It likes to eat fuschia, but will eat lots of other different plants too. The larvae is black and green, and the pupa is found in the ground. It is a common moth.

*Researched by Jonathan Price*

## ORDER: COLEOPTERA

(beetles)

40% of all insects are beetles. They can swim, fly and crawl and are found everywhere. They have wings with a hard armored cover. They can eat a lot of different things, including leaves, bark, dung, and plant pests. They have poor eyesight but a good sense of smell. They also pollinate flowers. They lay their eggs on soil or a plant surface, hatch into "grubs", and live about one year. They are eaten by birds, mice, spiders and other insects.

*Researched by Johnny Preis, Bernard Alexander Drenth, Emily Sipchen*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

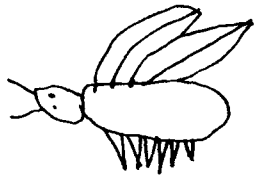
**Predaceous Ground Beetles**  
(family Carabidae; several species)  
They are brightly colored.

**Rove Beetles**  
(Family Staphylinidae)  
This predator lives in the homes of other insects, such as ants and termites.  
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*

**Scarab Beetles** (several species)  
These beetles are very hairy and mostly nocturnal.  
*Researched by Emily Sipchen*

**Metallic Wood-boring Beetles**  
(Family Buprestidae)  
This beetle bores holes into trees. It has metallic coloring and lives under the bark.  
*Researched by Annie Preis*

**Click Beetles**  
(Family Elateridae)  
This animal lies on its back when it thinks it is in danger. When it thinks the coast is clear, you hear a click and it flies into the air and lands on its legs.  
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*

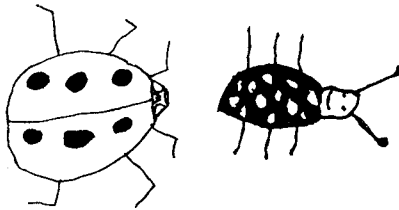


**Soldier Beetle**  
(Family Cantharidae; species undetermined)  
This beetle has a strong unpleasant smell and secretes a yellow liquid when it is touched or crushed. Its length averages about 1/2 inch.  
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen, Kory Lee*

**Hide Beetles**  
(Family Dermestidae)  
The wing completely covers the abdomen of this animal. They are small, oval and plump.  
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*

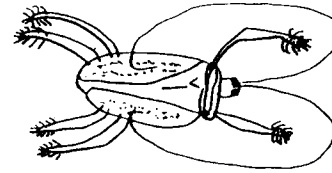
**Ironclad Beetles**  
(Zopherus haldemani)  
This beetle has a hard body. It lives in deserts and doesn't care if it had water or not. It is awake at night and eats fungi. It has black dots and yellow marks all over and has white on its back.  
*Researched by Johnny Preis*

**Darkling Ground Beetles**  
(several species)  
This beetle has long legs and is a fast runner. It lives under stones, boards, or any other object laying on damp dirt. It comes out at night to hunt other small bugs.  
*Researched by Dusty Earl*



**Ladybird Beetles**  
(Family Coccinellidae)  
This handsome round species eats aphids and scaley insects, which is a great help to plants. They came from Australia. Like Dalmations, they are not born with their spots. When they get the spots, they are symmetrical.  
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen, Hester Taylor*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

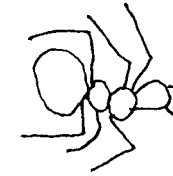


**Longhorn Beetles**  
(Family Cerambycidae)  
The Longhorned beetles bore through wood. They have a long antennae, chewing mouthparts, long thin legs and developed wings. There are many different kinds of Longhorned Beetles. Some move fast, some move slow. The adults eat pollen, flowers, leaves or bark. The larvae can lie dormant in dry wood for years, sometimes emerging 20 years later. Usually though, they live only one year.  
*Researched by Jonathan, Annie Preis*

**Leaf Beetles**  
(Family Cerambycidae)  
This beetle is never very large, some are so tiny that you cannot see them without a microscope. Some can jump long distances when disturbed, others feign death and drop. They eat living plants and each species prefers a different species of host plant. They range throughout California.  
*Researched by Robert, Annie Preis*

**Seevils**  
(Curculio obtusus)  
It is 6-8 millimeters long. It lays its eggs in hazelnuts. The female is black and the male is a bright yellow.  
*Researched by Jessica Marter Kenyon*

**ORDER: HYMENOPTERA**  
(ants, bees, wasps)  
These primarily social insects are predators, parasites or pollinators. They have chewing mouthparts, often with a tongue that sucks nectar. Most of them mate to reproduce.  
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen, Libby McCann*



**Ants**  
(family Formicidae)  
Over 200 species of ants live in California. They are social insects that live in large groups and raise their young. Males live only during mating season, otherwise all ants in a colony are female: the queen who lays the eggs and the female workers which do not lay eggs. The smell organs of ants are located on the antennae.  
*Researched by Marc Wiele, Annie Preis*



**Ant, Argentine**  
(Iridomyrmex humilis)  
These are the most common of all ants. They build their nests in the ground under rocks and wood. Their bite can be felt. They "farm" aphids; that is, they "capture" aphids and protect them from their natural enemies in exchange for harvesting the "honeydew" that aphids secrete. They also eat all kinds of sweets and dead animal matter.  
*Researched by Marc Wiele, Ann Preis*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### Ant, Southern Fire Ant

(*Solenopsis geminata*)

This ant looks real ugly. It has an antenna like an elbow, black abdomen, yellowish red head and thorax. Only the females have stingers. It lives in fields and woodlands, in dry to moist soil. It can sting and bite, and builds its home right next to bushes to protect it from gophers. The entrance to its home is an ant hill. It eats poultry, seeds, insects, fruits, flowers and vegetables.

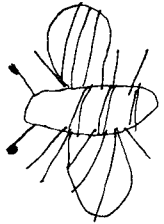
*Researched by Johnny Preis*

### Ant, Carpenter

(species undetermined)

Carpenter Ants are the largest ants in California. They make their nests in wood, soil, fallen logs and tree stumps. They eat sap, fruits and other insects both dead and alive.

*Researched by Marc Wiele*

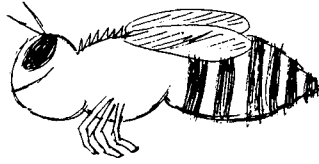


### Bee, Valley Carpenter

(*Xylocopa varipuncta*; males pale buff, females black)

This bee is found in California, Utah, and Nevada. They live in the forest and meadows in groups in a bee hive. They suck pollen from flowers like roses. In late summer the bee eggs hatch. They drill geometrically exact holes, up to 12 inches deep.

*Researched by Gabe Polanco*



### Bee, Honey

(*Apis mellifera*) *introduced/domesticated*

The honey bee has a hairy brownish thorax. It first lived in Southern Asia and was brought to America in the 1600s by the Spanish. It lives in hollow trees. The hives can have 50,000 bees in it. The queen bee lays the eggs, helpers get the pollen. The hive is made out of bees-wax. The bee is the only insect that provides food for us. Because of our climate the bee can make honey all year long.

*Researched by Libby McCann, Charlie Taylor*

### Braconid Wasps

(Family Braconidae; parasitic)

Most are brown or black and they are found everywhere. They help control the insect population because the larvae are parasites of many insects.

*Researched by Annie Preis*

### Ichneumonid Wasps

(Family Ichneumonidae)

There are over 1,000 species of this wasp in California found at low to moderate elevations. Most species are parasites and prey upon all kinds of insects. Most are day-flyers. They are frightening in appearance but they do not sting.

*Researched by Valentina Martinez*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### Paper Wasp

(species undetermined)

They have dancing legs and are usually an inch or more long. They are brown or redish. They build honeycomb-like nests in dead trees, holes in the ground or hanging from roof eaves. The nest is used for one season. Most eat caterpillars.

*Researched by Michael*

### Mud Dauber

(species undetermined)

This large common wasp catches its food by stinging it. The females build mud nests which are stuck to rocks and walls. In the fall they lay eggs and stock the nest with paralyzed spiders, on which the larvae feed until springtime.

*Researched by Dustin Redman, Annie Preis*

### Leafcutter Bee

(species undetermined)

These bees cut really tender leaves of various trees to use as lining for the cells in their nest. This bee can be found in different parts of the world and looks like a bumble bee. The bees build their nest in soft wood or a hole in the ground. The bee must cut more than one thousand pieces of leaves to produce thirty cells for thirty larvae in its nest.

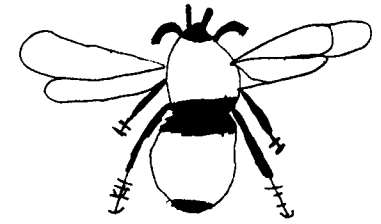
*Researched by Dominique Fuelles*

### Sweat Bee

(species undetermined)

Sweat Bees can be different colors -- such as dark red, metallic green or blue -- but most of them are brown or black. The hive is usually in the ground, in a burrow with many connecting tunnels where they lay their eggs. The bees are attracted by human sweat which is how they got their name.

*Researched by Dominique Fuelles, Annie Preis*



### Bumble Bee

(*Bombus* species)

Bumble Bees are large with black and yellow bodies. The queen lays eggs and feeds them honey and pollen. They use plants to get pollen. They make a loud buzzing noise and sting very hard if upset.

*Researched by Jessica Miller, Libby McCann*

### Yellow Jacket

(*Vespula pensylvanica*)

This is a common bees found throughout North America in meadows and edges of forested land. It has a black and yellow striped jacket. When irritated they will sting you and buzz around. The female makes a small nest. Adults eat nectar. They come to our school and bug us.

*Researched by Danny*



### MYRIAPODS

#### Centipedes

Centipedes have 40 legs with one pair of legs per body segment. They are quickly moving carnivores with poisonous glands. They can not kill a human being with their poison, although the bite can be very painful.

*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: INVERTIBRATES

### Millipedes

Millipedes have a lot of legs but they still can't move fast. They only have 3 pairs of legs when they are born, and have more when they grow up. Some can roll themselves into little balls, just like roly pollies. They live in dark places and eat dead plants. Sometimes they eat live plants, so they aren't good to have in your garden.

*Researched by Johnny Preis*



### SPIDERS

#### CLASS: ARACHNIDA

Phylum: arthropods

These predators have simple eyes, a cephalothorax, abdomen and eight legs. They grow gradually, molt and lay eggs. If they lose a leg it will grow back. All arachnids are beneficial because they keep down the insect population.

*Researched by Keesha Hernandez, Annie Preis, Alec Christensen*

### Black Widow

(*Latrodectus hesperus*)

This spider is found throughout the southern United States in sheltered places on or near the ground, in brush piles, under boards or in cellars. The female has long slender legs, a glossy back with red markings often shaped like an hour glass. The male is a little smaller, has a more slender abdomen with red and white markings on its sides. The female hangs upside-down in her web, so you can see her warning sign. After two spiders mate, the female kills the male and eats him, that is why they call her the Black Widow.

*Researched by Daniel Rodriguez, Alec Christensen*

### Funnel Weaver

These insects spin platform-like webs close to the ground in chaparral. The web has a "funnel" leading off from one edge, through which the spider escapes once it has caught its prey.

*Researched by Jade Katona, Annie Preis*

### Jumping Spider

(Family Salticidae)

These spiders are not poisonous but the bite can be very painful. They have excellent vision and hunt during the day. They jump on their prey. They can be social and build their nests close to each other. They are most active in the spring.

*Researched by Max Cirigliano, Annie Preis*

### Orb Weavers

(*Araneus* spp.)

This spider is found in tall grass and shrubbery. It spins its web at night and eats insects. It lays its eggs in silk sacks. It has poison glands and uses thread to carry itself.

*Researched by Annie Preis*

### California Trapdoor Spider

(*Bothriocyrtum californicum*)

(Family Ctenizidae)

This spider has three microscopic claws on each foot. It eats insects, millipedes and other spiders. It digs a burrow in the ground and lines it with silk and closes it with a hinged door made also from silk

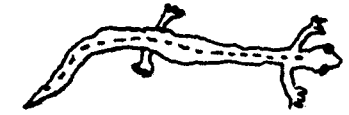
*Researched by Jonathan Flores, Annie Preis*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: AMPHIBIANS

### AMPHIBIANS

#### CLASS: AMPHIBIA

Phylum: Vertebrate



### Salamander, Garden Slender

(*Batrachoseps major*)

This salamander is found in coastal Southern California in chaparral and canyon bottoms. It is long and slender and has no lungs but breathes through its skin. It has 4 toes on both front and back feet. It can secrete a fluid so sticky it can glue a snake's mouth shut. It lays its eggs under stones and brush. It can coil like a snake. The best place to find this animal is under rocks after a rain shower. Many salamanders are dying because of pollution and because they get killed by cars when they migrate. It's not a good idea to try and touch this animal because it might flip into the air and its tail might break off.

*Researched By Danielle Zapata, Leah Zivalic, Max Duck*



### Salamander, Pacific Slender

(*Batrachoseps pacificus*)

It has a white or grey stomach and reddish brown or brown on top. It has four toes. They like damp dark places. They hide during the dry summer and you can see them during rainy seasons because they are more active. They lay their eggs during the rainy season. They are cold blooded and eat once every two days.

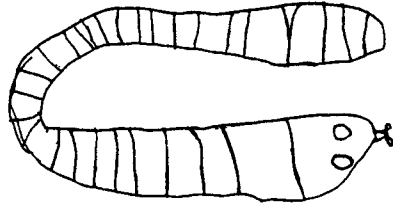
*Researched by Brenna Cheyney, Alex Schmaltz*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: REPTILES

### **Salamander, California Slender** (*Batrachoseps attenuatus*)

This salamander does not live for a long time and lives by itself. It sleeps during the night and uses dead plants and trees for shelter.

*Researched by Christine Costales*



### **Toad, Western** (*Bufo boreas*)

This toad is found in grasslands and woodlands in California. It is nocturnal and found all year round.

*Researched by Robin Clay*

## REPTILES

### CLASS: REPTILIA

Phylum: Vertebrate

### **Lizard, Southern Alligator**

(*Gerrhonotus multicarinatus*)

This lizard is found along the coast from Washington to Mexico. It lives in grass, bushes and trees. It is 4 to 6 1/2 inches long and reproduces in clutches of up to 40 eggs.

*Researched by Nick*



### **Lizard, Western Fence or Blue Belly** (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)

This lizard has scales and a blue belly. It is a spiny lizard. It likes to be in sunny spots on walls, stones, rocks, fences and trees. It eats smaller animals like caterpillars, snails, grasshoppers, cockroaches and ants. It has ears on the outside of its body. It has eyelids and sheds its skin in patches. It lays 3 to 14 eggs each year. During the day it hunts for food and at night it finds a hiding place and rests.

*Researched by Alex Schmalz, Hanna Azboy, Ashton Huebner, Bernhard Drenth*

### **Snake, Common Kingsnake** (*Lampropeltus getulus*)

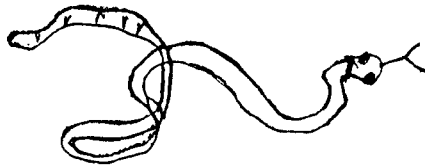
This animal is found from Oregon to Baja California in brushy hillsides where they are thriving. They eat at sunrise and sunset and are nocturnal during summer months. They mate and lay clutches of 3 - 15 eggs in late winter and early spring, which take 2 months to hatch. They grow 3 to 4 feet.

*Researched by Armando, Jens Fischer*

### **Snake, Ringneck** (*Diadophis punctatus*)

This small slender snake has a narrow black neck ring and spotting on the belly. It likes moist situations in varied habitats on both the eastern and western coasts. It hunts mice and does not eat plants. It eats earthworms, slugs, snails, salamanders, lizards and newborn snakes. It lays 1- 10 eggs one inch long. It doesn't usually bite and hides under logs. It is secretive.

*Researched by Steve Campos, Sydney Brody*



### **Snake, San Bernardino Ringneck**

It has an orange strip around its neck and is black on top. It likes hot weather and likes to dig in soft ground. It has sex and lays eggs. It eats young snakes, salamanders, earthworms and slugs. It is secretive but not venomous.

*Researched by Joe Kirsheimer*

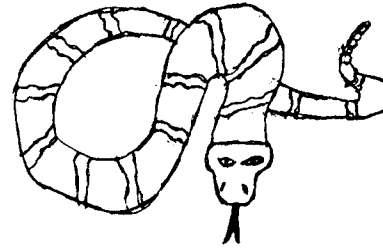
## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

### **Snake, San Diego Gopher** ("Bullsnake")

*Pituophis melanoleucus*

This is a green, brown and yellow snake that lives in all western states. It can dig and is a good climber. It has a very loud hiss that can be heard for 100 yards. It uses plants for protection and lays large eggs.

*Researched by Francisco Gomez*



### **Snake, Southern Pacific Rattlesnake**

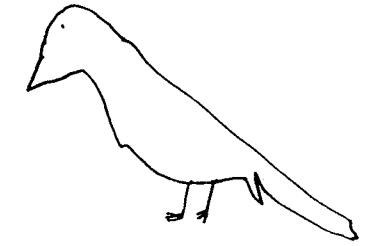
This snake is found from Baja California north to San Luis Obispo. It hides in rock crevices, tree roots and burrows. Over winter they stay together in a common den. They live about 10 to 15 years. After a special dance, the female lays her eggs and does not protect her young. Rattlesnakes nap during the day and hunt at night. Most snakes live in groups but rattlesnakes are mostly alone. They are poisonous.

*Researched by Andrew, Jake, Ethan Burgess*

## BIRDS

### CLASS: AVES

Phylum: Vertebrates



### **Bunting, Lazuli**

(*Passerina amoena*)

This bird breeds in California, its nest a loose cup in a bush. It is a small, bright sky blue finch.

*Researched by Carolyn, Cody and Angelica Molina, Jeffrey Wayne*

### **Bushtit, Common**

(Family Aegithalidae)

A resident bird that is only a little larger than the hummingbird, it flocks with others and calls gently.

*Researched by Cody, Carolyn and Angelica Molina, Hanna Azboy*

### **Chickadee, Mountain**

(*Parus gambeli*)

This resident nests in tree cavities. Its black cap is interrupted by a white line over the eye.

*Researched by Cody, Angelica and Carolyn Molina*

### **Cowbird, Brown-headed**

(*Molothrus ater*)

This bird is normally found in grasslands. It sleeps at night. It uses pine tree leaves for food and pine cones to make a nest for shelter. There are 90 different kinds of cowbirds.

*Researched by Corey Hoffman*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS



### **Crow, American**

(*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

This bird is seen in meadows, orchards and woods in Canada and the United States. They live in tall trees. They eat corn, worms, white grubes and young chicks. They have an 18 to 19 inch wing span. They sleep at night and live in groups. You can train one to talk as clearly as a parrot.

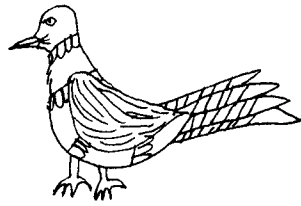
*Researched by Daryl, Luis, Michael Hand, Anjelica Molina*

### **Dove, Mourning**

(*Zenaida macroura*)

This bird is olive gray with a pink and violet neck. They have long central-pointed tail feathers and a proportionally small head. They range from Alaska to Panama. They migrate south in late autumn. During mating season they travel in pairs, otherwise in flocks. When they reproduce, the male moves close to the female with a stiff-legged jump, all the while standing erectly. Nests are placed in shrubs and trees not much higher than 20 feet. Both parents keep the unhatched eggs warm. Babies are helpless when born and fed by the parents through regurgitation. Their food is varied but almost completely vegetable matter, chiefly seeds and berries. It makes a whistling and cooing sound.

*Researched by Cynthia Avila, Maya Siklai, Katrine Tracy*



### **Dove, Ringed Turtle**

(*Streptopelia risoria*)

This bird likes brushy woodland but also lives in cities. It sleeps during the day and lives in small family groups. In Elyria Canyon this bird depends on the black walnut tree for most of its nutty food.

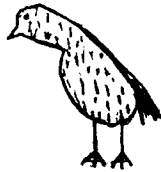
*Researched by Unique Branch, Maya Rumble*

### **Dove, Spotted**

(*Streptopelia chinensis*)

This dove has spots on its neck and its tail is rounded.

*Researched by Amanda Luna, Kaya Thomas*



### **Finch, House**

(*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

This bird is found from Canada to Mexico, in towns, open woods, coastal scrubs, canyons and desert. It builds its nest in bushes, trees and cactus. The eggs are blue-green and they are spotted.

*Researched by Kimberly Gonzalez, Keesha Hernandez*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

### **Finch, Purple**

(*Carpodacus purpureus*)

The Purple Finch is about the size of the house sparrow. It sounds like the house sparrow too, except lower in pitch. It lives in canyons and mountains throughout California. The adult male is a dull rose red, the female and babies are heavily striped with brown.

*Researched by Caia Vermeul-Taback*

### **Flicker, Northern**

(*Colaptes auratus*)

The Northern Flicker has a grey crown and brown throat and cheeks. It migrates here and is found in both North and South America.

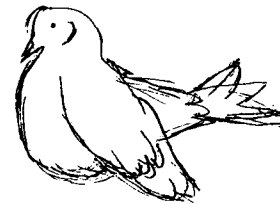
*Researched by Annie Preis*

### **Flycatcher, Ash throated**

(*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

This bird likes open woods and semi-dry areas. It catches insects on the wing.

*Researched by Annie Preis*



### **Goldfinch, American**

(*Carduelis tristis*)

This bird is 5 inches in real life and colorful. It is found in Canada and the USA. It lives in groups and lays between 5 - 6 eggs which the female sits on for 12 - 13 days. It makes the nest out of thistle fuzz and plant fibers and eats the thistle seeds and other seeds.

*Researched by Leah Pillsbury*

### **Goldfinch, Lawrence's**

(*Carduelis lawrencei*)

This bird lives in oak and pine tree woods as well as chaparral. It migrates from California to Mexico. It makes a nest-cup of grasses and feathers in bushes and trees. It is the most beautiful goldfinch.

*Researched by Robin Clay*

### **Goldfinch, Lesser**

(*Carduelis psaltria*)

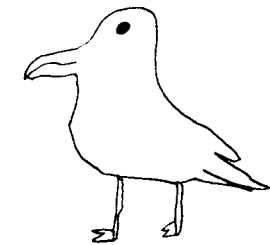
This yellow bird has black wings with white patches and the crown of the male is black. It lives in dry brushy fields, woodlands and gardens. It eats seeds and migrates.

*Researched by Jade Katona, Jason Scher, Annie Preis*

### **Grosbeak, Black-headed**

This bird has a heavy beak with strong muscles so that it can crack open hard nuts such as walnuts. It also eats berries, seeds and fruits. It builds its nest in a bush and has blue spotted eggs.

*Researched by Emily Sipchen*



### **Gull, California**

(*Larus californicus*)

The California Gull comes inland during winter. It is known to be a scavenger. The underside of its wing is blackish or red, and the tip of the bill has a black spot. It has a loud squeal-like cry.

*Researched by Caia Vermeul-Taback, Roxanne Cruz*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

### **Hawk, Cooper's** (Accipiter cooperii)

This bird is found in woodlands and forest edges. It lives by mostly eating smaller birds and mammals. It sleeps during the night and lives by itself. It lays 3 - 5 bluish white eggs. It protects its young by one parent staying with the young while the other parent hunts. The father uses sticks and twigs to build its nest high in a tree. It is a swift hunter.  
*Researched by Josh Saunders, Johnny Preis*

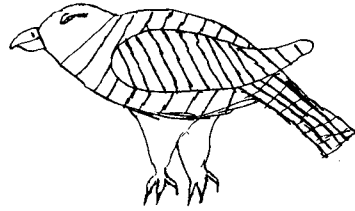
### **Hawk, Sharp-shinned** (Accipiter striatus)

The adult is over 1 foot tall and 2 feet wide at wingspan. It is found in the United States and Canada. It lives in groups of 2 and sleeps during the night. It lives in woodland and forest edges. When it goes to sleep it hides in the trees. This hawk has a squared tail and round wings.  
*Researched by Maria, Phillip Ri*



### **Hawk, Red Shouldered** (Buteo lineatus)

This is a big bird with red shoulders and a curved beak. It sits in tall trees and watches for food such as snakes and mice. It lays eggs and feeds its young. It doesn't eat plants. It is seen alone or in small flocks. It has long feathers.  
*Researched by Isabel Kanholm, Ashley Sipchen*



### **Hawk, Red Tailed** (Buteo jamaicensis)

This is a big hawk found all over the United States and Mexico. He has a red tail, big claws and a hooked bill. He hunts in the grass and stands on tall trees to look for mice. The female lays eggs and both parents bring food to their young.  
*Researched by Evan Heimdahl, Luis Salas*

**Hummingbird, Anna's** (Calypte anna)  
This small bird has a red crown and red throat. It can have lots of babies when it finds a boyfriend. It has white eggs. It has the fastest wingbeat and can fly backwards. It has a long needle-like bill and weak feet. When perched, its head moves constantly from side to side.  
*Researched by Corina*

**Jay, Scrub**  
(Aphelocoma coerulescens)  
This bird is found in woodland and chaparral in the western part of the United States. It has a loud voice. It fights and steals nests from other birds. It can dig to bury acorns, which it eats. It also eats insects and worms. It looks like a Blue Bird.  
*Researched by Alejandro L., Diana M., Katrina Tracy*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS



### **Junco, Dark-eyed** (Junco hyemalis)

This migrating bird usually has white outer tail feathers, a black head and reddish brown back, although the colors can vary. The female has less color than the male. It eats seeds and small fruits, and makes a nest on the ground in a protected place. The eggs are bluish- white.  
*Researched by Annie Preis, Christina Gaillard*

### **Kestrel, American** (Falco sparverius)

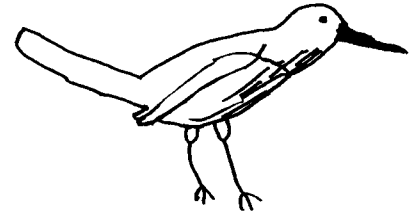
It is about the size of a jay and has a black and white face. Sparrow Hawk is another name for American Kestrel. It is found in North and South America.  
*Researched by Johnny Preis*

### **Kinglet, Golden-crowned** (Regulus satrapa)

This tiny fat bird has a bright gold crown surrounded by black then white stripes. It has a black eye ring around the eye. It likes woodland and has a weak high pitched song.  
*Researched by Caia Vermeul-Taback, Shenan Price*

### **Kinglet, Ruby-crowned** (Regulus calendula)

The kinglet has wide eyes and a stubby tail. The males have a yellow crown.  
*Researched by Annie Preis*



### **Mockingbird, Northern** (Mimus polyglottos)

This bird lives from Canada to Mexico, on farms, in towns, roadsides and ranches. Its nest is a rootlet cup in brush and dense trees. It has a long song.  
*Researched by Robin Clay, Libby McCann*

### **Nuthatch, White-breasted** (White-breasted Nuthatch)

This bird prefers forests and woodlands. Its color is grey above, white below, black crown, black nape and a white face.  
*Researched by Keesha Hernandez*

### **Nuthatch, Red-breasted** (Sitta canadensis)

This bird has a black crown and eye stripe, white cheek and chin. It sounds like a toy tin horn. It has a short tail and climbs up and down trees, looking for insects.  
*Researched by Danielle Zapata*

### **Oriole, Hooded** (Icterus cucullatus)

The breeding male is a color of orange, yellow-orange, black and white. The calls are wheets and eeks. The song is rapid and loud.  
*Researched by Dominique Fuellas*



## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

### Oriole, Northern

(*Icterus galbula*)

This bird is also known as the "Baltimore Oriole" and "Bullock's Oriole". It migrates north in spring. They nest in the woodlands of Southern California. Female colors are dull but males are orange with a black hood and black tail. Their call sounds like a flute.

*Researched by Jonathan Douglas, Shenan Price*



### Owl, Great Horned

(*Bubo virginianus*)

This bird is the largest common owl, growing up to 25lbs. It has yellow eyes, a hooked bill and a large round face. It is brown-gray with stripes underneath. It doesn't make a noise when it flies. It makes a nest in an abandoned hawk or heron nest, or in a tree, crevice or cliff. It lays 2 - 3 white eggs and to keep its babies warm it covers the babies with feathers. Usually this bird does not migrate. It makes a hoo hoo hoo kind of sound. At night it hunts rabbits, rodents, snakes, birds and sometimes skunks. It will even eat insects! It likes to hunt in wide open spaces, that's why it likes Elyria Canyon. Elyria Canyon has lots of wildlife for the Great Horned Owl to eat. I would like to live there. But I'm happy just to hike there also.

*Researched by Daniel Maynard, Natalie Jenkins, Emily Sipchen, Alec Christensen*

### Owl, Western Screech

The Screech Owl lives in woodlands and deserts. It is a dull grey and black and is not easily seen. The call is not a screech. It is a series of whistles. It has ear tufts that it can flatten. It makes its nest in an old woodpecker hole.

*Researched by Jonathan Douglas*

### Phainopepla

(*Phainopepla nitens*)

It lives in western oak woodlands like Elyria Canyon. The males are black while the females and young birds are grey. They have bright red eyes. One of their favorite foods is mistletoe berries.

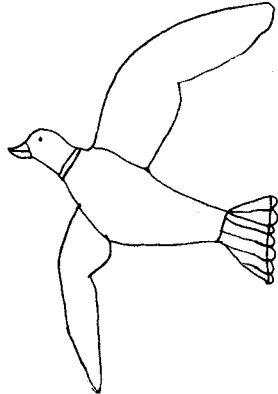
*Researched by Jonathan Douglas*

### Phoebe, Black

(*Sayornis saya*)

The Phoebe lives near water. It is black with a white tummy. Its nest is a mud cup mixed with grass. The babies have some brown as well as black feathers.

*Researched by Jonathan Douglas*



### Pigeon, Band-Tailed

(*Columba fasciata*)

This is a Pacific coast bird. It is grey with a band on its tail. It flies in groups and eats seeds, grain and fruit. It feeds its young and protects them. It has a deep owl-like hoot.

*Researched by Genisses, Megan Lilly, Libby McCann*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

### Poorwill, Common

This bird lives in dry woodlands and on the sides of deserts. It is a rockish grey that is good for camouflage. A scrape in the ground is its nest. It feeds at night by jumping up and catching an insect in the air.

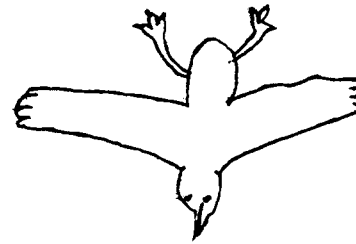
*Researched by Jonathan Douglas*

### Raven, Common

(*Corvus corax*)

The raven lives high in the mountains and down in lower areas. Both males and females are night black. The raven's call sounds like they are choking. They are often confused with crows, but ravens are larger.

*Researched by Jonathan Douglas*



### Raven, Chihuahuan (*Corvus cryptoleucus*)

This black bird is 210 tall and has a white neck. It likes arid and semi-arid scrub and grassland desert. It has a hoarse voice that sounds like ôkraakô.

*Researched by Alejandra Gillette-Teran*

### Robin, American

(*Turdus migratorius*)

It lives throughout Southern California from the mountains to the lowlands. Robins have rusty red breasts. Their eggs are colored blue from which "Robin's Egg Blue" came. Their favorite food is earthworms.

*Researched by Jonathan Douglas*

### Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied

(*Sphyrapicus varius*)

This bird lives in woodlands and the edges of forests from Alaska to Central America. It feeds on insects extracted from bark. It drills holes in trees in horizontal lines or checker board pattern. It can lay 4 - 6 white eggs in a cavity which it has excavated in either a tree or fence post.

*Researched by Marika Piday*

### Sapsucker, Red-breasted

(*Sphyrapicus ruber*)

These birds visit the holes they drill in trees, looking for sap and insects. The Red-breasted Sapsucker visits in winter. It has a red head, neck and breast.

*Researched by Adrian Gonzalez*

### Siskin, Pine

This bird is friendly with goldfinches. It is common in forests and woodlands and migrates to a lot of places. It has yellow streaks on the wings.

*Researched by Adrian Gonzalez, Johnny Preis*

### Sparrow, Fox

(*Passerella iliaca*)

This small bird likes woodlands and chaparral. It has a grey head, white stomach and brown tail. It eats seeds and lays eggs.

*Researched by Nichole Nerio*

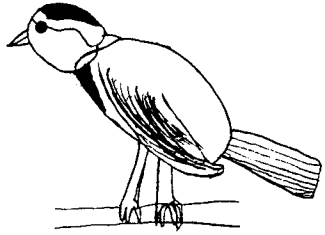
### Sparrow, Golden-crowned

(*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

It has a yellow crown on its forehead, white across the wings and brown everywhere else. It is found along the coast of California in woodlands. It eats seeds and feeds its young.

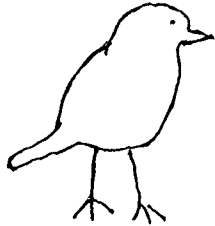
*Researched by Leigh Ann Vivareal*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS



**Sparrow, White-crowned** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)  
This small brown bird has a white and black crown and grey tummy. It is found in the southern half of the United States in woodlands and brushy grassland. When it whistles, it whistles in one or more notes. It hides its nest.  
*Researched by Jennifer Kampe*

**Sparrow, House** (introduced)  
This bird is found all over the world. It is aggressive and thriving.  
*Researched by Julia Bockwinkel*

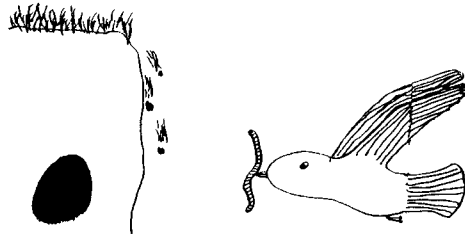


**Sparrow, Lincoln's** (*Melospiza lincolnii*)  
This buff and grey colored sparrow has a short tail and lives in brush and meadows. It is shy. It makes a low gargling sound.  
*Researched by Keesha Hernandez, Robin Clay, Jonathan Douglas*

**Sparrow, Song** (*Melospiza melodia*)  
The Song Sparrow is black, brown and white. It has a very brownish red on its tail. It is found in brushy areas of most of the United States. It lays 2 - 5 eggs and eats seeds. It sings a lot and this is what it sounds like: three notes followed by a buzzy "tow wee", then a trill.  
*Researched by Nora Rohman*

**Starling, European** (introduced)  
This bird has a short tail and when young is dusty grey in color. It builds a nest in the hole of a tree.  
*Researched by Annie Preis*

**Swallow, Bank** (*Riparia riparia*)  
This bird can be seen flying over grassland, catching bugs in midflight. It is only 5 inches long.  
*Researched by Christina Gaillard*



**Swallow, Cliff** (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*)  
It has a blackish throat and pale forehead. All juveniles are much duller and grayer. It builds a mud nest.  
*Researched by Robin Clay, Nora Rohman, Libby McCann*

**Swift, Vaux's** (*Chaetura vauxi*)  
The swift's small body is dark in color. It can be found throughout North America. Its nest of twigs is found in trees and sometimes chimneys.  
*Researched by Annie Preis*

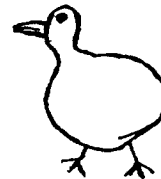
## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

**Swift, White-throated** (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)  
It has long, stiff, narrow wings. It has a black and white pattern and its nest is found in cliffs and sometimes buildings.  
*Researched by Annie Preis*

**Tanager, Western** (*Piranga ludoviciana*)  
The male has yellow and black wings. The eggs are spotted blue. The female has white and yellow wings.  
*Researched by Annie Preis*

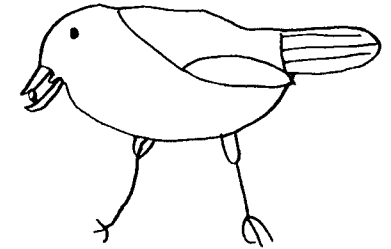
**Thrasher, California** (*Toxostoma redivivum*)  
It is 11 to 13 inches long. It lives in open ground under low thick branches. It is dark with a white throat and has a curved shaped bill. It imitates different sounds and its song sounds like a mocking bird.  
*Researched by Robin Clay*

**Thrush, Hermit** (*Catharus guttatus*)  
This lovely bird, which has lovely brown and scarlet feathers, has a beautiful flute-like sound. It feeds on pepper tree and poison oak berries. It often visits the mountains in the summer.  
*Researched by Jackie Rivera, Monet Guerrero*

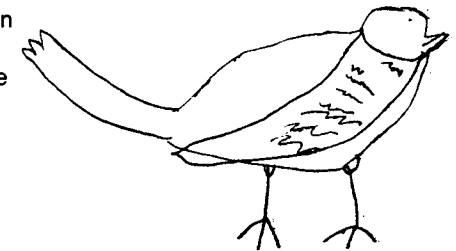


**Thrush, Swainson's** (*Catharus ustulatus*)  
This bird likes bushy undergrowth. It is found in the Northeast and the West. It migrates to South America. It lays 3 - 5 blue eggs with brown markings.  
*Researched by Jeanette Ramirez*

**Towhee, California** (*Pipilo fuscus*)  
This bird is also called the Brown Towhee. Brown Towhees are common on brushy hillsides and wooded canyons. Towhees are also finches. They are very good ventriloquists  
*Researched by Amanda Luna, Cody Rank*



**Towhee, Green-tailed** (*Pipilo chlorus*)  
This bird is found during summer in low chaparral brush. Its voice is often heard when the bird is hidden from sight.  
*Researched by Libby McCann*



**Towhee, Rufous-sided** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)  
This small and slender bird has red eyes and a blue tail. It likes open woodland and brush. It makes a cuplike nest close to the ground in brush and lays 3 - 6 eggs. Its song is like a cat or a buzz sound.  
*Researched by Sophia Grady*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

### Vireo, Warbling

(Vireo gilvus)

This common bird feeds mainly in the middle to high branches of trees, and you can hear its sounds in city parks and wooded areas.

*Researched by Jennifer Kampe, Cody Rank*



### Vulture, Turkey

(Cathartes aura)

This bird is black with a red head and black and brown feathers. Its wingspan is 6 feet! It is found in North and South America. It eats dead animals and sometimes kills animals. It finds its food by smell. It lays its eggs on the ground, not in a nest. It likes to sit on dead trees. It is closely related to the California Condor.

*Researched by Kimberly Gonzalez, Geneva Burleigh*

### Warbler, Black-throated Gray

(Dendroica nigrescens) This bird is grey with a white and black head. It is common in woodlands.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz*

### Warbler, Hermit

(Dendroica occidentalis)

This bird has a bright yellow head and black throat. It is found from Guatemala to Washington, migrating throughout Southern California. It gives a song like tsit, tsit, tsit, chee chee.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz*

### Warbler, MacGillivray's

(Oporonis tolmiei)

The male is olive above, yellow below, has a slate grey hood and white eye ring. The female's hood is much lighter, and the colors less bright. It is found from Alaska to the Southwest United States.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz*

### Warbler, Nashville

(Vermivora ruficapilla)

This warbler has a white eye ring and yellow throat. It is found from Canada to Guatemala. Its nest is found on the ground in grass.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz*



### Warbler, Orange-crowned

(Vermivora celata)

This is a small bird, 5" high. It is plain looking, olive green and yellow green.

*Researched by Crystal Clay, Annie Preis*

### Warbler, Townsend's

(Dendroica townsendi)

This warbler visits us during winter. The male has a black crown, green and yellow around the eyes. The female has a green head and yellow and black throat. It is 4 1/2 to 5" long.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

### Warbler, Wilson's

(Wilsonia pusilla)

This warbler has a black cap, yellow underparts, olive green top and black eye. It is active and feeds on insects.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz.*



### Warbler, Yellow

(Dendroica petechia)

This bird is found from Alaska to Peru. It looks for food at the middle height in trees. It is calm and seems tame. It lays 4 - 5 spotted eggs in a deep felted cuplike nest in the upright crotch of a shrub or tree. It is common.

*Researched by Katrina Tracy, Nichole Nerio*

### Warbler, Yellow-rumped

(Dendroica coronata)

This bird is dark grey above with black streaks and a white belly. It has yellow on its rump, on its side and on its crown. It has 4 to 5 white eggs in its nest, which can be found in woodlands.

*Researched by Brendan Speltz*

### Waxwing, Cedar

(Bombycilla cedrorum)

This bird has a yellow band at the tip of its tail, red spots on the wings and a brown crest. It is larger than a house sparrow and catches flies. It also likes fruit and flies in compact flocks.

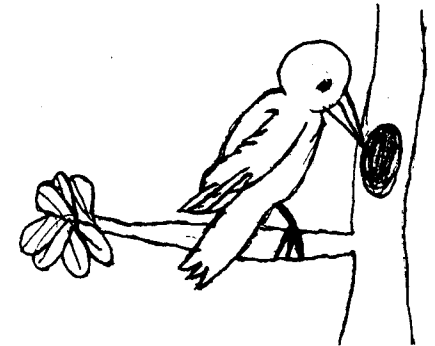
*Researched by Brendan Speltz*

### Woodpecker, Acorn

(Melanerpes formicivorus)

There are over 200 species of woodpeckers all over the world except Madagascar, Australia and oceanic lands. This particular one lives in western North America in woods, canyons and foothills. The male is a clownish black and white with a red head. The female has less red on its head and a smaller beak. They store acorns in bark and build a nest in a hollowed out area of a tree. It sleeps at night. The woodpeckers spend most of their time hopping up and down tree trunks in spirals, looking for insects.

*Researched by Kyle Wiele, Jake Hagedow, Julia Bockwinkel, Claire Fraser, Brendan Speltz, Natalie Solomon*



### Woodpecker, Hairy

(Picoides villosus)

This bird lives from Alaska to Panama in woodlands. They climb and have long tongues. You can find 3 - 6 white eggs in its nest in a tree hole. The males have a small red patch on the back of the head. Females don't have one.

*Researched by Claire Fraser*

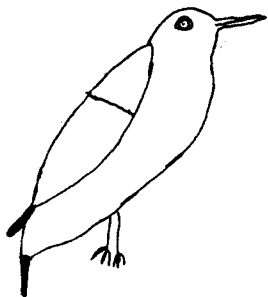
## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: BIRDS

### Woodpecker, Downy

(Picoides pubescens)

This bird is found in Alaska, Canada and the United States. It has black and white wings and head and a strong straight bill and a red dot on its head. It lives in trees in forests, woodlands, orchards and city parks and eats insects. It pecks at trees to find food for its young. When it pecks at the tree it does not harm it. The tree heals soon.

*Researched by Lilly Diaz, Ralph Zabala*

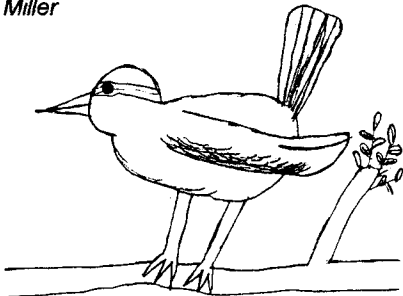


### Woodpecker, Nuttall's

(Picoides nuttallii)

The Nuttall's Woodpecker lives in woods and gardens. It has white cross stripes. The back is black and the back of the neck is red. The underparts are black and white. It likes berries.

*Researched by Raymond Meza, Jessica Miller*



### Wren, Bewick's (Thryomanes bewickii)

This bird lives in chaparral and gardens in western North America. It builds a nest in small bird boxes or tree cavities. It has 4 - 7 spotted eggs. It twitches its tail back and forth.

*Researched by Julia Bockwinkel*

### Wren, House

(Troglodytes aedon)

This popular bird is about five inches long. It is plain looking but has an enthusiastic song. It likes brush, shrubs, gardens and urban parks. It visits throughout the United States.

*Researched by Christina Gaillard, Crystal Clay*

### Wrentit

(Chamaea fasciata)

The Wrentit is small and brown with white eyes. It lives from Oregon to Mexico in chaparral shrubs and brush. It does not like open spaces and is secretive. It makes a nest in low brush out of bark and cobwebs. It has 3- 5 blue-green eggs. You hear it but you can't see it.

*Researched by Jesse Clemens*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: MAMMALS

### MAMMALS

#### CLASS: MAMMALS

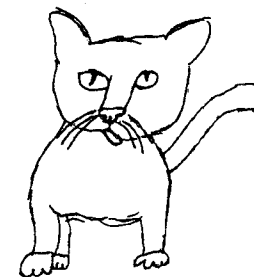
Phylum: Vertebrate

### Bat, Big Brown

(Eptesicus fuscus) Perhaps others

This animal is about 7 1/2" and weighs little more than half a pound. They can be found throughout the United States except for Florida. They have a strong flight with sudden changes in direction. Brown Bats are active at night and use echos to catch the bugs they eat. They have live babies and in the west and sometimes have twins! They can live in hollow trees.

*Researched by Anjelica Molina, Alec Christensen*

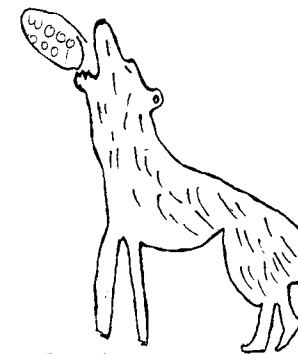


### Cat, House

(Felis catus)

Wild house cats also live in Elyria Canyon. They hunt alone at night and eat rodents. They inturn are eaten by larger mammals and birds, including coyotes and hawks. They are good hunters with very good eyesight and hearing. They can see six times better than humans. The babies are born blind and helpless, and stay with their mother. She teaches them how to hunt on their own.

*Researched by Emily Sipchen*



### Coyote

(Canis latrans)

This North American animal is four feet long including the tail. It has pointed ears, a painted nose and bushy tail. It lives to around 9 years and weighs 20 to 30 pounds. It has 4 to 6 puppies in a litter which are born in the spring in a den or cave. They stay with their mother for protection. By Autumn the pups have to find territories and food of their own. They stalk for food. They need to live in a place with a lot of rodents for food. They are meat eaters and catch weaker animals but they also eat berries. They live in packs and hunt in pairs mostly at night. There are as many as 12 species of coyotes. They can run 30 miles per hour.

*Researched by Gregory Clark, Alfonso Carreon, James B., Bobby Sipchen*

### Gopher, Botta's Pocket (Thomomys bottae)

Found in most western states, this animal has a thick body, short neck, short fur, naked tail and cheek pouches. It is colored dark brown to grey. It likes deserts and mountain meadows. It spends most of its time underground in burrows and extensive tunnels. It has 2 litters a year. It looks underground for roots or tubers to eat and gets water from the vegetation that it eats. It lives alone, one to a burrow.

*Researched by Celeste Goode, Alec Christensen*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: MAMMALS

### **Mole, Broadfooted**

(*Scapanus latimanus*)

It is found in damp soil. It is blackish brown and eats worms and insects.

*Researched by Annie Preis*

### **Mouse, House**

(*Mus musculus*)

This gray-brown animal is 6" long and has a grey or buff colored belly. It lives everywhere in North America, even in buildings and cultivated areas. It goes outside when it is warm. At 6 weeks old it can have 12 babies, and can have 14 litters a year!

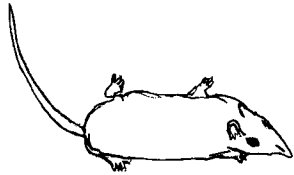
*Researched by Courtney Robbins*

### **Mouse, California Pocket**

(*Perognathus californicus*)

This animal likes brushy hillsides and crevices. It lives by itself and eats fruit, seeds and greens. It reproduces live babies and protects its young with its teeth. It often lives in the house of a woodrat. It can be 9 1/2" long. It is nocturnal and burrows. Its body can manufacture water. Its enemies are rattle snakes, skunks, hawks, coyotes and house cats.

*Researched by Jennifer Kampe, Geneva Burleigh*



### **Mouse, California** (*Peromyscus californicus*)

This is the largest deer mouse in North America. It has large ears and white feet and lives in brushy hillsides and ravines. It is sort of yellowish-brown or grey mixed with a little black at the top and some white below. The tail is sometimes but not always bicolored.

*Researched by Jacobo Walker*



### **Mouse, Brush**

(*Peromyscus boylii*)

This animal lives in brushlands and rocky areas of the Southwest.

*Researched by Arnold Mejia V.*

### **Mouse, Whitefooted Deermouse**

(*Peromyscus maniculatis*)

This small mouse has grey fur, large pointed ears and a naked tail. It lives all over North America inside underground burrows. Mice have a social order with definite rankings among the males. They don't hibernate and they produce 8 litters of 4 - 7 young each year. They need only a little bit of food each day to survive and don't need access to fresh water. Their enemies are owls, hawks, eagles, coyotes, weasels and others.

*Researched by Geneva Burleigh*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: MAMMALS



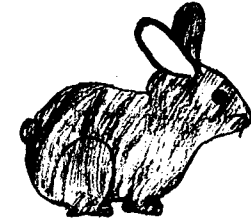
### **Opossum**

(*Didelphis virginiana*)

Introduced

This animal is common in but not native to Elyria Canyon. It came from the eastern United States. It looks like a big rat with a white mask. It has large black naked ears with pink tips, short legs and a long naked prehensile tail. It can be 40" long and weigh 14 pounds. It is a marsupial and lives alone. It sleeps during the day and lives around 7 years. It likes open woods and brushy wastelands and farmlands. It scurries around for food. It eats insects, birds, dead animals, snakes, earthworms, fruit, berries and other mammals. When approached by a predator it will lay on its back and play dead. It also scares animals away by hissing and showing its teeth. This animal makes a leaf nest in a hollow log, fallen tree, abandoned burrow or other shelter. The mother protects her young babies in her pouch for two months.

*Researched by Christopher Cirigliano, Crystal Clay*



### **Brush Rabbit**

(*Sylvilagus bachmanni*)

This is a small, dark brown short-eared rabbit with a short inconspicuous tail. It can grow to 14 1/2 inches. It has short feet it is found in deserts and grasslands of California. It likes dense brushy areas. It sleeps at night and lives with its family. It hides its young in a nest under bushes and eats plants. They reproduce once a year with 3 - 5 in a litter.

*Researched by Irene Park, Jeanette Ramirez*

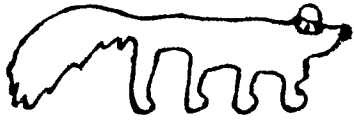
### **Desert Cottontail**

(*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

This is a grayish-brown rabbit with black tipped ears and a white belly and pure white tail. It lives from Southern California to Texas in places that have water and trees or neither. It eats almost anything green and has 2 litters of babies a year. It is active at morning and evening, and likes to stay by bushes. It can run 15 miles per hour which is not as fast as a coyote. It has live babies and likes to sleep in other animals' homes. It can climb trees.

*Researched by Jennifer Kampe*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: MAMMALS



**Raccoon**  
(*Procyon lotor*)

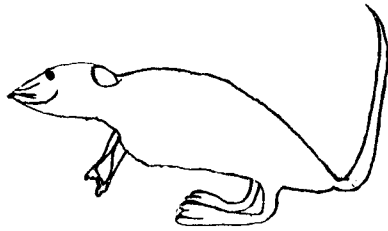
Did you know that young raccoons play together, the way you and your friends do? Raccoons live in forests, cities, grasslands, wet places and islands in North, Central and South America. It can be 3 1/2 feet long and weigh 20 pounds. It has a mask on its eyes and five dark rings on the tail. It is nocturnal. It makes a leaf nest in a hollow tree and eats plants, nuts, fruits, insects, eggs, fish, mice and birds. It can use its paws to open jars, doors and trash cans. It can even catch fish. The mother has 1 - 7 babies in the spring. The babies are called "kits" and are playful. Its enemies are coyotes.

*Researched by Bas Taback, Jonathan Price, Julia Bockwinkel, Lauren Every-Wortman*

**Rat, Brown Norway**  
(*Rattus Norvegicus*)

This brownish grey rat lives now throughout the U.S. It gives birth to live babies, has a long tail and big ears.

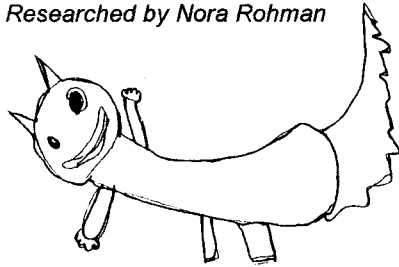
*Researched by Ashley Sipchen*



**Rat, Black Roof**  
(*Rattus rattus*)

This animal is 7 inches long. It lives from Canada to Mexico but came originally from Europe. It makes a nest out of anything soft and has several litters of 5 - 9 babies. It can kill people because it may carry serious diseases because of fleas.

*Researched by Nora Rohman*



**Squirrel, California Ground**  
(*Spermophilus beecheyi*)

This brown animal lives in Washington, Nevada and California in open areas, fields, rocky outcrops and hillsides. It is active during the day. Several animals live in the same burrow, each with a different entrance. It has 5-8 babies in the spring, which start digging on their own after they are 2 months old. It eats insects, plants, bulbs, roots, seeds and berries.

*Researched by Nora Rohman, Nicholas Lucas*

## ELYRIA CANYON ANIMALS: MAMMALS

**Squirrel, Fox**  
(*Sciurus niger*) Introduced

This is the largest of the tree squirrels. It builds a nest in tree branches out of leaves and sticks. It is common in cities. It has a long bushy tail, eats walnuts leaves and buds, has 2 litters of babies a year.

*Researched by Johnny Preis*

**Squirrel, Western Grey**  
(*Sciurus griseus*)

This animal is found along the coast and in mountains in the west. It has silver stripes down the shoulders. It climbs trees and buries nuts. It is born blind and drinks its mother's milk.

*Researched by Jeffrey Zimmerman*



**Skunk, Striped**  
(*Mephitis mephitis*)

This animal is found in the United States and Canada in deserts, woodland, grassy plains and city suburbs. It lives by itself and protects itself by spraying other animals. It mates from winter to mid-May. Skunks are nice creatures if you leave them alone. Skunks grow to be as big as a large house cat. If you bother one of them, it will stamp all four feet and spray you with a fluid called "musk". Musk comes from the scent glands underneath the tail.

*Researched by Ketzie Raspa, Vivian Sullivan, Alec Christensen, Bobby Sipchen*

**Woodrat, Dusky-footed**  
(*Neotoma fuscipes*)

This animal has a tall tail and fur around the ears. It is grey to nearly black. It eats leaves, seeds and roots and we have lots of its food in California. It makes houses by piling up sticks, rocks, cacti and dried manure. It puts a nest inside made out of plants, where it puts its babies and gives them milk. It can hold things by its hands.

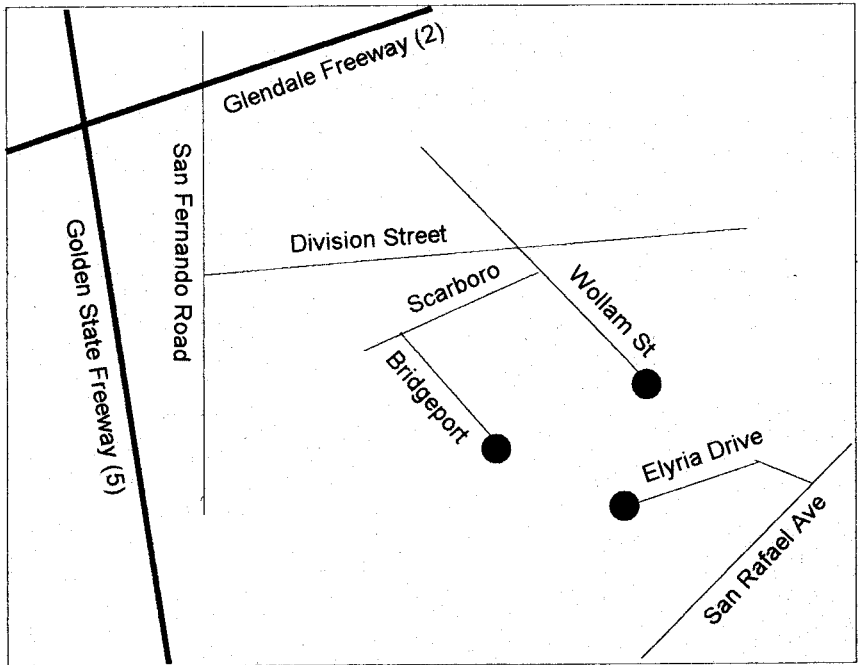
*Researched by Monica Youssef*



**Vole, California**  
(*Microtus californicus*)

This animal lives from Oregon to Mexico in dry or wet coastal grassy areas. It eats many kinds of grass, the favorite being fresh tender leaves and developing seeds. It can breed throughout the year if food is abundant, otherwise it breeds when plants and grasses are sprouting. The babies are born live.

*Researched by Benjamin Cabrera, Ashley Sipchen*



Elyria Canyon Park is 4 miles from downtown Los Angeles, nestled between two communities: Glassell Park and Mt. Washington.

**Directions to Elyria Canyon Park from downtown Los Angeles:**

Take the Golden State Freeway (5) North to the Glendale Freeway (2) North.  
 Exit San Fernando Road, turn right.  
 Turn left on Division Street, turn right on Wollam Street.  
 Parking and the park entrance are at the end of Wollam Street.

**To reach the handicap parking entrance from Division Street:**

Turn right on Winmar Drive, turn right on Scarboro, turn right again on Bridgeport Drive, follow Bridgeport to the park entrance.

**Directions to Elyria Canyon Park from Mt. Washington School:**

Take San Rafael Avenue south to Elyria Drive, turn right. Park entrance is at the bottom of Elyria Drive (street parking only).