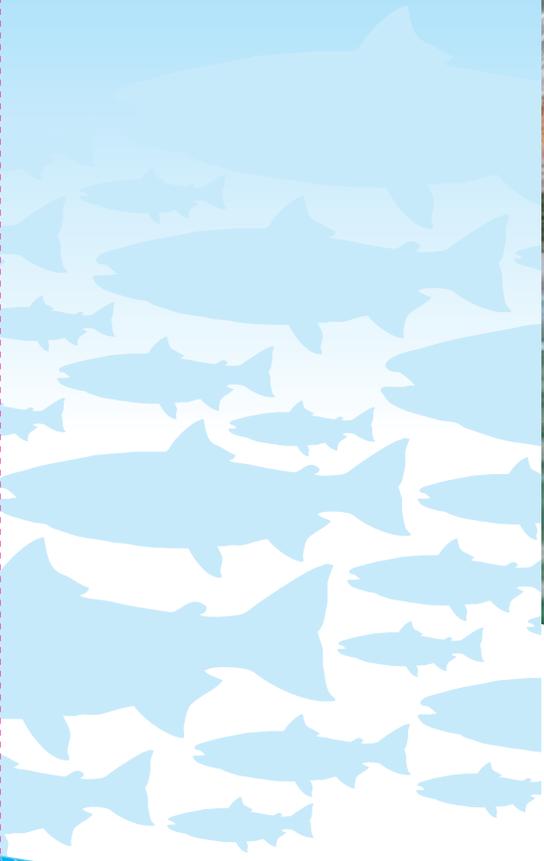


WILDLIFE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



WILDLIFE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

YOU CAN IDENTIFY A RACCOON BY HIS, WHAT?



Raccoons prefer heavily wooded areas with access to trees, water and abundant vegetation. There, they make their dens in the hollow parts of trees as well as abandoned burrows. They will travel almost 20 miles from their home in search of food. They can easily be identified by the black fur around their eyes.

WHAT DOES A COYOTE SOUND LIKE?



Coyotes are known for how well they adapt to different habitats and thrive in our park grasslands and foothills. Their preferred diet includes deer, elk, rabbits, mice, squirrels, pocket gophers, beavers, ground nesting birds, amphibians, lizards, snails and fish. But, they will also eat insects, fruits and berries. As nightfall descends on our valley, it's not uncommon to hear them howl, yip, and bark.

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A SKUNK?



Our skunks have black fur with two white stripes down their back. They are also known for their ability to spray a liquid with a strong unpleasant smell that can linger for several days. Their diet consists of plants, insects, larvae, worms, fruit, eggs, reptiles, small mammals and fish.

DO SOME BLACK-TAILED DEER HAVE HORNS?



The Columbian black-tailed deer is found throughout the Bay Area and as far north as the Pacific-Northwest. Only the male deer have horns during the summer months. During the winter and early spring, they feed on Douglas-fir, western red cedar, red huckleberry, salal, deer fern, and lichens growing on trees. Late spring to fall, they consume grasses, blackberries, apples, fireweed, pearly everlasting, forbs, salmonberry, salal, and maple.

CAN YOU SPOT WHERE A CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEAVER LIVES?



The California Golden Beaver is making a comeback along streams in the greater Bay Area and we have some right in the downtown area of San Jose on the Guadalupe River. You can find their habitat by looking for dams in our streams and examining trees for the tell-tale bite marks.

WHY DO CHINOOK SALMON ENTER OUR CREEKS?



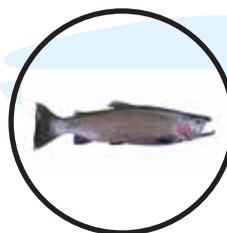
Juvenile Fall Chinook may spend up to three months in freshwater before migrating to estuarine areas as smolts and then into the ocean to feed and mature. Adult salmon dine on smaller fish. After three years they return to the stream of their birth, make a nest in the gravel and lay eggs which hatch in about 90 days.

HAVE YOU SEEN A BOBCAT'S TRACKS?



Bobcats are elusive and nocturnal, so they are rarely spotted by humans. Although they are seldom seen, they roam throughout much of Santa Clara Valley. These carnivorous mammals hunt rabbits, rodents, birds and bats. Sometimes they will seek out small lambs, pigs or poultry if they find them.

IS A STEELHEAD A TROUT?



Steelhead and rainbow trout are the same species, but unlike rainbow trout, they go to sea. Unlike most salmon, steelhead can survive spawning, and can spawn in multiple years. They use aquatic vegetation, boulders, and wood as protective cover. Steelhead spend the majority of the year in estuaries or open ocean and only return to freshwater to spawn.

The Santa Clara County is home to many wildlife species living right in our neighborhoods and parks. Many inhabit, use, and travel through our waterways and riparian corridors.

WHAT'S UNUSUAL ABOUT OSPREY CLAWS?



Ospreys live on fish that they catch by snatching them in a shallow dive from the surface of the water. They may also catch birds, reptiles and even crustaceans. Ospreys are unusual among hawks in possessing a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind. Barbed pads on the soles of the birds' feet help them grip slippery fish.

WHERE DID OUR WILD TURKEYS COME FROM?



California Department of Fish and Wildlife started introducing wild turkeys from Texas to California in 1959 until 2000. They prefer eating acorns, nuts and other hard mast of various trees as well as various seeds, and berries.

WHERE IN SAN JOSE CAN YOU FIND PEREGRINE FALCONS?



Look for Peregrine Falcons perching or nesting on skyscrapers, water towers, cliffs, power pylons, and San Jose's own City Hall. Peregrine Falcons catch medium-sized birds in the air with swift, spectacular dives, called stoops. In cities they are masterful at catching pigeons.

WHAT DOES THE WESTERN POND TURTLE DO IN DECEMBER?



Western Pond turtles prefer water habitats with exposed areas for basking, with aquatic vegetation, such as algae and other water plants. They can be found in Calero County Park, Henry W. Coe State Park and Stevens Creek County Park. They hibernate in December and January by burying themselves in the mud and covering themselves with leaves.

HOW TALL IS A GREAT BLUE HERON?



Great Blue Herons are the largest heron and stand 3 to 4.5 feet high. and are usually seen in the sloughs and creeks around the South Bay, including Shoreline Park, Palo Alto Baylands, and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, where they stalk frogs and mammals.

GOPHER SNAKE



Adults are typically 4 to 5 ft. long. A large, thick bodied, slow-moving snake, brown or tan colored, with a head slightly wider than the neck and dark markings on the back. Probably the most commonly seen snake in our area, including grassland, chaparral, agricultural, riparian, woodlands.

HOW FAST DO AN ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD WINGS BEAT?



Its wings beat 78 times per second during regular flight and up to 200 times during a dive. It can fly forward, backward, straight up, straight down, and upside down. At one tenth of an ounce, a grown hummingbird weighs less than a pencil. Yet, they fly over 500 miles when they migrate across the Gulf of Mexico.

COAST RANGE FENCE LIZARD



These lizards are very common to our area and can be found in many different open, sunny areas, including woodlands, grasslands, chaparral, waterways, pond edges, houses and fences. They like to hunt and eat live creatures like ants, gnats and crickets.



South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition originated as a community based effort called Friends of Los Gatos Creek to clear the Los Gatos Creek. Now, after five years it has grown to include the Los Gatos Creek, Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek.

Due to budget cuts in the early 90's, the City of San Jose was unable to keep local creeks clean so SBCCC filled that void with a volunteer-led effort. Prior to our group launching, a drop in standards allowed mountains of trash like assorted plastic packaging, batteries, shopping carts, and paint cans to overrun this creek. Each year during the storm season this accumulated trash was swept down the creek and deposited into downstream pools or worse, into the Bay.

During the next 4 years, we implemented the Team 222 Program – a volunteer-led effort to *Reclaim, Restore and Revitalize* the local waterways. To date, this group has conducted over 150 creek cleanups removing 190 tons of trash from our local waterways. The goal of the Team 222 Program is:

- Volunteer to clean a creek location for 2 hours
- Meet on the second Saturday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November)

Please join us for one of our cleanup events on Los Gatos Creek, Guadalupe River, or Coyote Creek. Help us *Reclaim, Restore and Revitalize* our South Bay Watershed by visiting us at www.sbcleancreeks.com and clicking on the RSVP tab.

Partially funded by generous contributions from:



Images by Julie Kitzenberger. For more - www.JulieKitzenberger.com or www.juliekblog.com