Wildlife Identification Guide



Large Mammals

Black Bear





Courtesy of J. & K. Hollingsworth

Color varies from black or cinnamon to blond in West and black in East; muzzle usually brown; may have a small white patch on chest. Male much larger than female.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives primarily in forest and swamps in East, in forest and wooded mountains in West. Omnivorous. Lives up to 30 years.

Usually solitary, except mother with cubs. Mates Jun.—Jul. Typically two to three cubs, born in winter.

Grizzly Bear





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Color varies from light yellow to dark brown to nearly black; fur on back usually white-tipped giving grizzled effect. Distinguished from black bear by noticeable hump above shoulders and a flat dish-shaped face.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in open, mountainous areas in West and on tundra in far North. Omnivorous.

Lives 15–34 years. Mates Jun.–Jul. Typically two cubs, born in winter.

Elk





Courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife

Dark brown to tan coloring; cream-colored rump patch and tail. Large, spreading antlers that extend over the back.



Habitat and Habits: Lives in mountain terrain in summer and may move to lower elevations, wooded slopes in winter

Herbivorous. Lives up to 15 years. Male is polygamous; rut runs Sept.–Nov. Usually one calf; spotted until 3 months of age.

Large Mammals

Gray Wolf





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Largest wild dog. Color varies from white (arctic) to black, but usually a grizzled gray. Tails often black-tipped. Unlike coyote, holds tail straight out when running.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in north wilderness forests and tundra, and all habitats in other ranges except desert

and high mountains. Carnivorous. Mainly nocturnal but can be active anytime. One to eleven pups born Apr.–Jun.

Moose





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Dark brown coloring; legs are grayish. Largest game animal in Idaho with a horse-like head and a large hump on back. Large overhanging snout; dewlap on throat. Antlers on male are massive, palmate, and flat.



Habitat and Habits: Lives in forests with lakes and swamps. Herbivorous. Lives up to 20

years. Male is polygamous; rut runs Sept.—Oct. Usually one calf; light reddish-brown with dark stripe down back.

Mule Deer





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Reddish coloring in summer and blue-gray in winter. Rump patch and tail are cream-colored; rope-like tail has black tip. Ears are larger than the white-tailed deer. Antlers branch equally.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in forests, desert shrubs, thickets of shrubs or trees, grasslands, plains, foothills and river bottoms. Herbivorous. Lives up to 16 years. Male is polygamous; rut runs Oct.—Dec. One to

two spotted fawns typical.

summer range all-year range not present

Large Mammals

Pronghorn





Courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Reddish to tan coloring. Large white rump patch with short white tail; rump hair stands up when alerted or fleeing. Two broad white bands across neck. Male has large black cheek patch and larger, slightly curved horns with single prong growing forward.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in open prairies, plains, and brushlands. Herbivorous. Lives for 14 years. Male is polygamous; rut runs Aug.-Nov. Two fawns typical.

White-Tailed Deer





Courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife

Reddish-brown to blue-gray or tan coloring; underside of tail is white, producing a "flag" when raised off the rump. Antlers on males consist mainly of main beam with tines growing from it.



Habitat and Habits: Lives in forests, swamps, open brushy areas, foothills, plains, and river bottoms. Herbivorous.

Movement limited from one to two miles. Lives up to 16 years. Male is polygamous; rut runs Oct.-Dec. One to two spotted fawns typical.

Small Mammals

Cottontail Rabbit





Courtesy of Gary M. Stolz

Small-sized with brown-gray fur; relatively large ears; small tail with white underside.



Habitat and Habits: Lives in grasslands,

brushy areas, and cactus deserts. Herbivorous. An average of three young per litter; two or more litters per year.

Coyote





Courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife

Medium-sized with gray to reddish-gray fur, more red on legs, feet, and ears; dark-tipped tail; whitish belly and throat.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in prairies, open woodlands, shrublands, and a variety of habitats. Carnivorous. Mainly nocturnal

but can be active anytime. Five to ten pups born Apr.-May.

Red Fox





Courtesy of J. & K. Hollingsworth

Medium-sized, usually reddish-yellow but sometimes gray; can range from darker to lighter; bushy tail with white tip; usually dark legs and paws.



Habits: Lives in mixed woodlands, farming areas, and open

Three to seven young born Apr.-May.

summer range

winter range

all-year range

not present

Small Mammals

Red Squirrel



Smallest of the tree squirrels in Idaho, uniformly yellowish or reddish, with whitish belly. Tail bushy.



Habitat and Habits: Lives in pine and spruce forests, swamps. Active throughout year. Feeds on great variety of seeds, nuts, eggs, fungi; stores conifer

cones and nuts in caches. Nests in cavity of tree or outside in branches. Two to seven young per litter, two litters per year

Yellow-Bellied Marmot



Brown with yellowish underside; white patches on chin and between eyes; small, round ears; short legs and furry tail.



Habitat and **Habits:** Lives in dry woods, pastures, meadows, and bushy ravines. Herbivorous. About five young are born Apr.-May.

Upland Birds

California Quail



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Male is gray with a grayish-blue chest and scaled appearance below; black face outlined in white; brown crown; black topknot with six feathers. Female is brown with scaled appearance below; smaller black topknot.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in coastal brush, woodland edges, parks, farms, ranches, and open chaparral. Makes a loud "ka-kah-

ko" call. Nests in depressions; 12-16 creamcolored eggs with golden brown spots.

Chukar



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Light brown back with gray head and chest; white below; white face and neck outlined in black; black and white stripes on sides; bright red on edge of tail.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in arid mountains, canyons, brushy slopes, and grasslands. Makes a "chuck-chuck-chuck" call. Nests in rocks or

brush; 8-15 white eggs with brown spots.

Hungarian Partridge



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Chicken-like with gray body; rust-colored face and throat; brown stripes on wings; rustcolored tail visible in flight. Male has large brown patch below.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in open farmland with weeds for shelter and grain fields. Makes a hoarse "kee-uck" call; cackles rapidly when flushed.

Nests in depressions hidden in vegetation; 10-20 olive-colored eggs.

summer range

winter range

all-year range

not present

Upland Birds

Pheasant



Courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife

Large, chicken-like bird. Male is gold-colored with white neck band; green and purple iridescent head; red wattle around eyes. Hen is dull brown with dark flecks on wings and back. Both have long tail feathers.



Habitat and Habits: Lives in farmlands near woods. Male makes "skwagock"

a "kia-kia" sound. Flies for short distances. Nests in grasses and shrubs; 7-15 brownish-green eggs.

Wild Turkey



Courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife

Large, long-legged bird with dark, iridescent body; featherless, reddish head. Male is larger and more iridescent than female.



Habitat and Habits:

Lives in open woodlands, brush country, thickets of shrubs or trees, river bottoms, and

hardwoods. Lives up to 12 years. Polygamous males. Mating call is a gobble; normal calls are clucks, putts and purrs. Nests in depressions; 4-17 tan eggs with reddish spots.