

We hope you've enjoyed this special place.

The environment around us is rich with wonder, intrigue, and lessons about nature's order. We at Harris Beach State Recreation Area are happy you took time to explore the area. If you've found this information interesting, please continue to expand your understanding of this dynamic environment through our other interpretive programs and materials.

Please leave plants and animals just as you found them. Your state parks are nature reserves, where living things are protected for others to enjoy.



**Harris Beach
State Recreation Area
1655 Hwy. 101 North
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(541) 469-2021**



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This publication is available in other formats upon request. Write to: OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE Suite C, Salem, OR 97301-1271; or call (503) 986-0707 (for the hearing impaired 1-800-735-2900).

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Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Harris Beach State Park

Common Animals & Birds



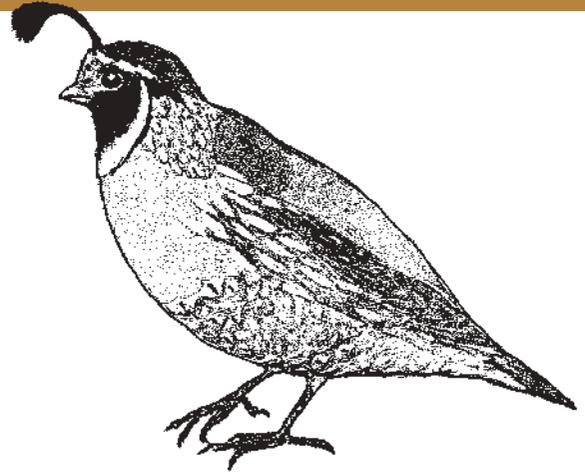
S T E L L E R ' S J A Y



Steller's Jay is a dark, bluish-gray bird with a distinctive crest (topknot) and scolding calls which are good clues to its identity. This bird is omnivorous and will eat berries, fruit, bees and even the eggs of other birds. These birds have adapted to the "ease" of campground living and will get into your food items, so do yourself and them a favor and store your food away. The Jays are quite curious and will people-watch us even while we are bird-watching them!

C A L I F O R N I A Q U A I L

California Quail has a distinctive black plume that dresses the head of both sexes. You will usually hear "cluck" and "churring" calls before you see this handsome bird. For such small birds, they are fairly clever and always post a lookout when they are feeding or come to water. The mild coast climate often allows the quail to raise two clutches of young and the flock can grow quite large by the end of summer. These birds frequent the edge zones of the park.



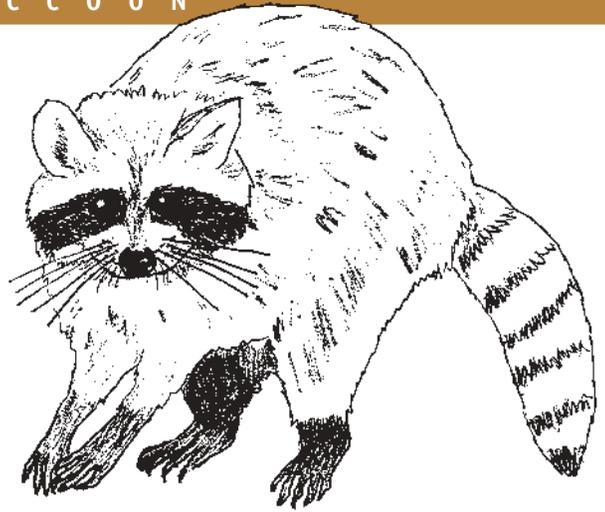
C H E S T N U T - B A C K E D C H I C K A D E E



Chestnut-backed Chickadee is a member of the Chickadee family that prefers the dense coastal forest and rarely strays from this environment. As its name implies, it has a brown/chestnut colored back. It will travel in small flocks amongst the conifer trees in constant "chick-a dee-dee" chatter. They will nest in old woodpecker "tree holes" and even old fence posts.

C O M M O N R A C C O O N

Common Raccoon is nocturnal; it sleeps in trees or dens by day. They are out and about the entire year. They are omnivorous and will eat berries, nuts, blue mussels, bird eggs and fish. Their nickname “masked bandit” seems appropriate. The campground offers them “easy pickings” compared to their wild food sources. Their front paws are very dextrous and they can **open** boxes, picnic basket lids and even food coolers.



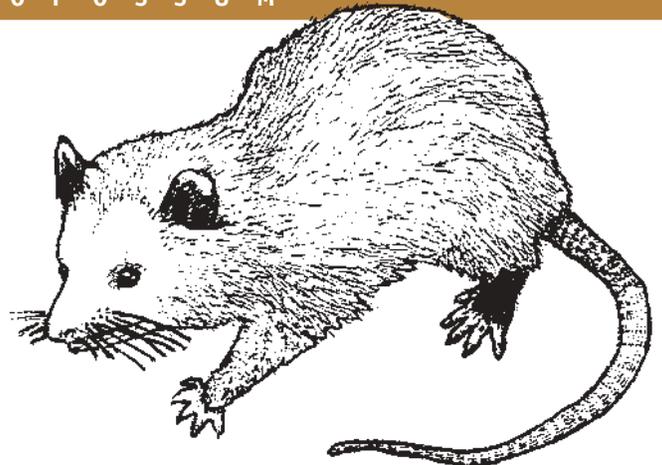
D O U G L A S ' S Q U I R R E L (C H I C K A R E E)



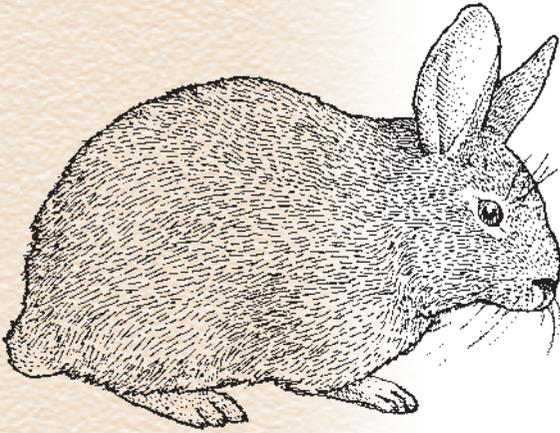
Douglas' Squirrel (Chickaree) is an active animal that can be seen year-round at the park. The head, back and tail is grayish-brown, while the underbelly is an orange-buff. The Chickaree is very vocal and will scold people, curious pets and even crows with short “barks” and chirps. They make large caches of pine and spruce cones in the forest duff, usually behind a log. This is their winter food store.

V I R G I N I A O P O S S U M

Virginia Opossum (non native) was introduced into the Oregon wilds around 1910-1912. They have now populated most areas of the state! They can be aggressive if threatened and their bite is painful. They will also play “dead” (“playing possum”). They are most active in the evening and find campground food to their liking. So, please put your foodstuff in a safe place at night. Opossums are marsupials and carry their developing young in a pouch until they are big enough to cling to their mother’s back. Their two main threats to survival are the Great Horned Owl and motor vehicles.



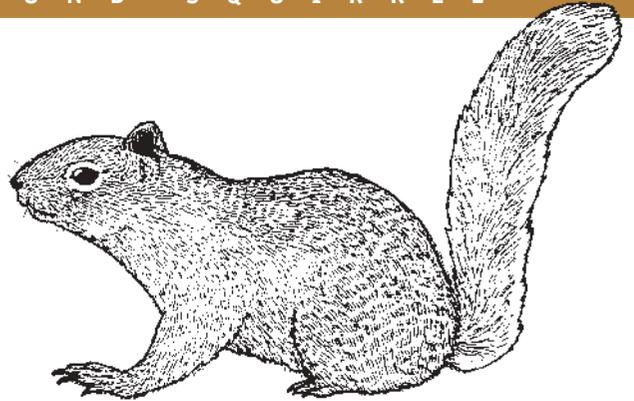
B R U S H R A B B I T



Brush Rabbit is a small rabbit that can be found just about anywhere in the park. They prefer a nice brush “hide” near our lawn areas. They are remarkably calm around people unless you make a sudden move, then they bolt in a flash! They are preyed upon mostly by Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls.

C A L I F O R N I A G R O U N D S Q U I R R E L

California Ground Squirrel is a squirrel that likes the open meadow areas of the park. They are especially abundant at the picnic area. They easily become pests when people feed them and the peanut shells create a litter problem. They also will overpopulate from the excess food then suffer die-offs. Enjoy the active antics of this interesting creature as it feeds on its natural foods of grasses, insects and forbs.



C O M M O N C R O W



Common Crow is an all black bird about 18"-20" in height. Have you ever been rudely awakened early in the morning by loud “cawing” and “squawking?” You have met the camp crows! They are noisy and clever and will wait until you leave your picnic lunch unguarded on the table and then will fly in and peck through every thing in sight! They will patiently steal one piece of pet food at a time and stash it away in a tree. Despite their bad manners, they are excellent parents to their 1-2 young. Recent studies have shown that sibling crows will help feed and tend this year’s young. In the winter, they travel and feed in family flocks.