Insects

**Western Honey Bee**
*Apis Mellifera*
Like all honey bees, the western honey bee is eusocial, meaning it creates colonies with a single fertile female or "queen" bee.

**Monarch Butterfly**
*Danaus plexippus*
The monarch butterfly has wings that feature an easily recognizable black, orange, and white pattern. Wingspan ranges from 3.5-4.0 inches.

**Vivid Dancer**
*Argia Vivida*
Similar to a dragonfly's shape, the Vivid Dancer features skinny long wings and a skinny long body. The colors vary but are most commonly blue and silver in color.

**Umber Skipper**
*Poanes melane*
The wings are umber brown, and the forewing has a darker disc and pale spots. The hindwing has a light yellow-brown band.

**Painted Lady**
*Vanessa Cardui*
The painted lady is a large butterfly (2.0–3.5 in.) identified best by the black and white corners of its mainly orange, black-spotted wings. It has white spots in the black forewing tips.

**Spotted Cucumber Beetle**
*Diabrotica Undecimpunctata*
Adult beetles are greenish-yellow with six large black spots on each elytron. They are about 0.5 cm long.

**Gray Hairstreak**
*Strymon Melinus*
This is the most commonly found Hairstreak in all of North America. The wings are a silvery-gray color as the name suggests.

**Cardinal Meadowhawk**
*Sympetrum fonscolombii*
Most commonly seen flying in late summer and autumn, they are yellow-gold as juveniles, but males and some females become bright red on part or all of their bodies.
Pipevine Swallowtail
*Battus philenor*
The wings are black with orange spots. It also has iridescent-blue hindwings.

Asian Lady Beetle
*Harmonia Vanillae*
The Asian Lady Beetle has a typical beetle shape and structure, being domed and having a "smooth" transition between its elytra (wing coverings) and head. The common color is orange or red in colouration with 0–22 black spots of variable size.

Gulf Fritillary
*Agraulis Vanillae*
The underside of the wings are brown and speckled with silvery white dots. In contrast, the top surface layer of the wings is a deep orange in color with black streaks running across.

Spiders

Cross Orbweaver
*Araneus diadematus*
Variable colourings that range from extremely light yellow to very dark grey, all have white markings across the dorsal abdomen, with four or more segments forming a cross.

Noble False Widow
*Steatoda nobilis*
This spider is often misidentified as the poisonous black widow. It has a brown bulbous abdomen with cream coloured markings.

Red-Backed Jumping Spider
*Phidippus Johnsoni*
Tend to be about a centimeter in length. Both sexes have a bright red abdomen surrounding the rest of its black body; In addition the female has a black central stripe.

Common Buckeye
The Common buckeye butterflies are colored brown with eyespots that tend to be large. They also exhibit green overtones and have wings that span between 2 and 2.5 inches.

Western Black Widow
*Latrodectus hesperus*
The female body is all black with an hourglass shaped red mark on the lower abdomen. The male spiders of this species are around half the length of females and generally are a tan color with lighter striping on the abdomen.
False Black Widow
*Steatoda grossa*
Color ranges from pale brown to red to satiny black. They have been found with white or beige to orange markings.

Triangulate Comb-foot
*Steatoda Triangulosa*
The adult female is 1/8 to 1/4 inch in length, with a brownish-orange cephalothorax, yellowish legs, and tiny hairs. The round, bulbous abdomen is creamy in color, with parallel purply-brown zigzag lines running front to back.

Trees

Cherry Plum
*Prunus Cerasifera*
Wild types are large shrubs or small trees reaching 25–40 feet tall, sometimes spiny, with red leaves that are 1.5–2.5 inches long. The flowers are often white, or a pale pink.

California Buckeye
*Aesculus Californica*
Ranging from 13–39 ft tall, with gray bark often coated with lichens and mosses, The leaves are dark green, The flowers are white to pale pink in color.

Coast Live Oak
*Quercus Agrifolia*
Heights ranging between 33–82 ft, The trunk, particularly for older trees, may be highly contorted. The leaves are dark green, and oval shaped.

Eurabbie
*Eucalyptus Globulus*
Long strands of shredded bark, The leaves are about 6 to 15 cm long and covered with a blue-grey, waxy bloom, which is the origin of the common name "blue gum".

Olive Tree
*Olea Europaea*
Trees are short and squat, and rarely exceed 26–49 ft in height. The trees have small, white, feathery flowers.

Coast Redwood
*Sequoia Sempervirens*
The coast redwood can reach 377 feet tall with a trunk diameter of 30 ft, often recognized as the tallest of all species of trees. The bark can be very thick and soft with a bright red-brown color when freshly exposed and a darker brown color when weathered.
**Mammals**

**Fox Squirrel**
*Sciurus niger*
Upper body is brown-grey to brown-yellow with a typically brownish-orange underside.

**Mule Deer**
*Odocoileus hemionus*
Named this way because of its large, "mule" like ears. The Mule deer has a black tipped tail, and a nose-to-tail length ranging from 4 to 7 feet.

**Striped Skunk**
*Mephitis mephitis*
Black fur with white stripe from head to tail. 1.7-2.5 ft long body. Primarily eats insects, but also vegetables and small vertebrates.

**Virginia Opossum**
*Didelphis virginiana*
Dull, gray-brown body with white face and long, hairless tail. Nests in wood piles and hisses in defense.

**Common Raccoon**
*Procyon lotor*
It's grayish coat mostly consists of dense underfur which insulates it against cold weather. Its distinctive features are its extremely dexterous front paws, its facial mask, and its ringed tail.

**Gray Fox**
*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*
The gray fox displays white on the ears, throat, chest, belly and hind legs. Distinguishable by its black stripe down its tail and strong neck.

**Botta's Pocket Gopher**
*Thomomys bottae*
7.1 to 10.6 inches in length. Botta's gopher generally lacks the black stripe down the middle of the back found in the closely related southern pocket gopher.
**Fungus**

**Amanita**  
*Amanita Muscaria*  
This mushroom is large white-gilled, white-spotted, and usually red. It is categorized as poisonous but reported human deaths amongst ingestion is rare.

**Latticed Stinkhorn**  
*Clathrus Ruber*  
The fruiting body is egg-shaped, white to grayish in color, with a gelatinous interior up to 0.1 in thick. After the volva opens, this fungi becomes much more distinguishable by its red cage structure.

**Redlead Roundhead**  
*Leratiomyces Ceres*  
This mushroom has a bright red to orange cap and dark purple-brown spore deposit. It’s usually found growing gregariously on wood chips.

**Sulphur Tuft**  
*Hypholoma Fasciculare*  
Often growing in large clumps in and around tree stumps, the mushroom cap can reach 2 inches in diameter and is yellow with an orange-brown centre and whitish margin.

**Yellow Fieldcap**  
*Bolbitius titubans*  
The mushrooms cap is between 1.5–5 cm, and grows egg-shaped when young but finally ending up nearly flat with time. The cap's color starts yellow and fades to whitish or greyish with age.

**Mowers Mushroom**  
*Panaeolina Foenisecii*  
This mushroom has a chestnut brown to tan cap that spans 1.5 to 3 cm across, It often has a dark band around the margin which fades as the mushroom dries.

**Yellow Stainer**  
*Agaricus xanthodermus*  
It is initially convex, with some young specimens having a squarish shape, though flattening with age. It is whitish, with light brown tints towards the centre. The cap is dry and smooth, but can be scaly when old.

**Turkey Tail**  
*Trametes versicolor*  
Most often found on dead hardwood logs and stumps. Its cap colors are extremely variable, but tend to in the brown, cinnamon, and reddish brown range. It is extremely identifiable because of its sharply contrasting zones of color, and the surface of the cap is finely fuzzy or velvety.
Mulch Maids
Leratiomyces percevalii
The cap of this mushroom is generally honey yellow when young but soon turns more white with age.

Hare’s foot
Inkcap
Coprinopsis lagopus
The cap of this mushroom is densely hairy when young, but can be nearly smooth by maturity. Like most other "inky caps," its gills liquefy and produce a black "ink" as the spores mature and the cap peels upwards.

Plants

Shepherd’s Purse
Capsella Bursa-Pastoris
Stems of this plant bear pointed leaves, the flowers, are white and small, about an inch in diameter, with four petals and six stamens.

Great Horsetail
Equisetum telmateia
It is a herbaceous perennial plant, with separate green stems, and pale yellowish stems.

Bay Laurel
Laurus Nobilis
This is an aromatic evergreen tree or large shrub with green, glabrous (smooth and hairless) leaves.

Common Ivy
Hedera helix
This is a climbing plant, growing to 66–98 ft high where suitable surfaces (trees, cliffs, walls) are available, these are also growing as groundcover where no vertical surfaces occur. The Ivy leaves are a greenish-yellow color.

Greater Periwinkle
Vinca Major
This is a trailing vine, spreading along the ground and rooting along the stems to form dense masses of groundcover. The leaves are broad with a glossy green color, and a leathery texture.

Nasturtium
Tropaeolum majus
This is an intensely bright flower, with rounded, shield-shaped leaves. The flowers have five petals, often orange in color, and a funnel-shaped nectar spur at the back.
California Poppy
*Eschscholzia californica*
Height varies from 0.5 to 4.5 ft. 4-petaled flower on silky stems, closing at night or in cold weather.

California Buckeye
*Aesculus californica*
13-40 ft tall, with sweet-scented flowers ranging from white to pale pink that go into dormancy in summer.

Fish/Aquatic Insects

Three-Spined Stickleback
*Gasterosteus Aculeatus*
Bright yellow cap fades with age and is less than 2 in in diameter. Stem is less than 4 in tall.

California Roach Minnow
*Hesperoleucus Symmetricus*
Very small cap that is minutely hairy in texture and hazel brown.

Hitch Minnow
*Lavinia exilicauda*
Moss-like, green to pale green, and bunched. Primary food source for reindeer and caribou.

Mayfly
*Ephemeroptera*
An aquatic insect, the mayfly has an elongated body. Coloring is commonly brown.

Amphibians

Arboreal Salamander
*Aneides Lugubrus*
Known for being an excellent climber Purplish-brown coloring, usually containing gold spots along its dorsal.

California Slender Salamander
*Batrachoseps attenuatus*
7-13 cm in length, the typical coloring ranges from black to a reddish brown.