



# SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH SCAVENGER HUNT

## SPRING & SUMMER



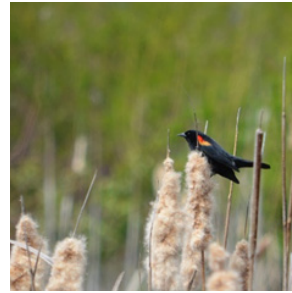
### Swallowtail Butterfly

- As a caterpillar it eats wild cherry leaves.
- Adult butterflies use their long tube-like tongue, called a proboscis to drink nectar from flowers.
- Adult butterfly can grow to 5 inches wide



### Balsamroot

- Can grow from 1 to 2 feet tall.
- Many small animals eat balsamroot as their source of food.
- Its leaves are covered with small white hairs.



### Red-Winged Blackbird

- Live in the Yakima area year round by wet landscapes like Cowiche Creek.
- Bodies are black and wings are black with red or yellow on top.
- Sing their songs during early spring.



### Great Horned Owl

- The "tiger of the air," it preys on mice, voles, birds, frogs, snakes, rabbits, and skunks.
- Nests in large trees or in rocky cliffs.
- Nocturnal – meaning it's most active at night, when it swoops silently onto prey.



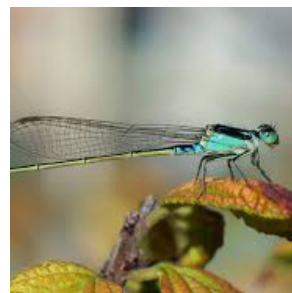
### Western Bluebird

- Eats insects and berries close to the ground.
- Because it can't dig holes with its beak, it nests in dead trees and cavities made by woodpeckers.
- Brilliant blue and rust colored.



### Western Fence Lizard

- Predators are birds, snakes, and some mammals.
- Preys on spiders and ticks, and insects such as beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and grasshoppers.
- Ectotherm – meaning it uses its surroundings to regulate its temperature.



### Dragonfly

- Starts life in freshwater as a nymph, which can live for several years.
- The adult lives for just a few days or weeks.
- Adult flies fast - up to 60 mph - and preys on flying insects including mosquitoes, butterflies, and moths. It's eaten by fast birds.



### Western Gray Squirrel

- Sleeps in nests built on tree branches, in tree cavities, or holes in the ground
- Mothers build nests for their young only in oak trees.
- Bury acorns (oak tree seeds) for food storage, helping plant new oak trees.



# SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH SCAVENGER HUNT

## FALL & WINTER



### Signs of Ranching Past

- This land used to be a ranch.
- You'll see signs of old fences, water troughs, canals, and abandoned cattle corrals.
- See anything else?



### Red-tailed Hawk

- Soars in circles high in the air
- Eats small mammals
- Has a shrill and loud call



### Big Sagebrush

- Blueish-green leaves last all year and don't fall off in autumn.
- Can grow to be over 10 feet tall!
- Provides protection and food for mammals, reptiles, and plants.



### Garry Oak

- Provides perching, nesting, food and shelter for birds, mammals, insects, and shade-loving plants.
- To survive, acorns need to be buried in the soil by small mammals, like squirrels.
- Thrives in the zone between desert and forest.



### Coyote

- Preys on squirrels, rabbits, snakes, beavers, voles, and mice.
- Hunted by cougar.
- Live in rock crevices and dens dug into hillsides where the entrance is often hidden.



### Balanced Rock

- A single rock balanced on other layers.
- Layers have been eroded more than the rock.
- The layers are softer than the rock.
- A structure like this is very rare for the Yakima Valley.



### Lichen

- Grows in different colors on trees, rocks, and soil.
- Lichen is formed from 2 types of organisms: fungi and algae.
- When two organisms combine together as lichens do, it is called symbiosis.



### Porcupine

- Eats leaves, twigs, bark, buds, green plants, and fruit.
- Hunted by cougars, coyotes, and great-horned owls.
- Moves slowly and uses sharp, barbed quills to protect itself from predators.





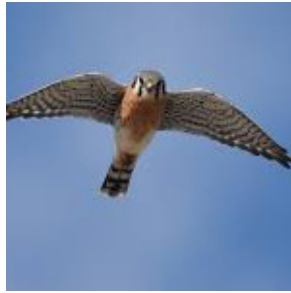
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## FALL & WINTER



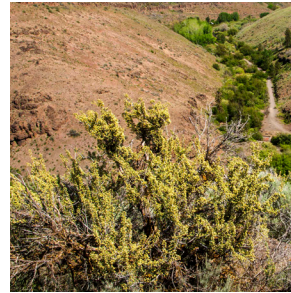
### Great Basin Wild Rye

- Can grow up to 8 feet high!
- Great habitat for birds, insects, and mammals



### American Kestrel

- Smallest falcon in North America.
- Males have slate-blue wings; females' wings are reddish brown. Both sexes have pairs of black vertical slashes on the sides of their pale faces—sometimes called a “mustache” and a “sideburn.”



### Antelope Bitterbrush

- Three separated teeth on the ends of its leaves.
- Flowers have five yellow petals.
- Roots are long and deep!



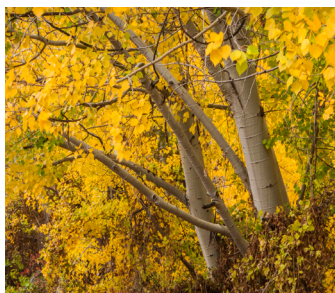
### Cottonwood

- Fast growing
- Common along streams
- Known for its fuzzy cottony fruits, which rain down in spring and summer.



### Cottontail Rabbit

- Year-around it eats bark, twigs, leaves, fruit, buds, flowers, and seeds of many plant species (and an occasional insect).
- Predators are the coyote, bobcat, great-horned owl, hawks, weasel, raccoon, raven, and snakes.
- Nests in holes lined with vegetation and fur.



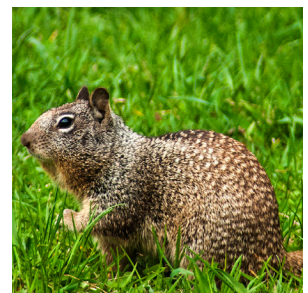
### Aspen

- Leaves turn golden yellow in fall before falling off.
- Trees are spread by rhizomes, or root suckers.
- The root systems can live hundreds or thousands of years.



### Beaver Signs

- Beaver chew down trees to build dams, which create slower, wider streams.
- Dams also make ponds that provide water for trees and safe places for baby fish.



### Western Gray Squirrel

- Sleeps in nests built on tree branches, in tree cavities, or holes in the ground.
- Hunted by owls, hawks, snakes, and cougars.
- Eats acorns, fungi, pinecone seeds, green vegetation, berries, and insects.