

Animal Migrations

(map on left page)

California's diverse natural environments provide habitat for more plant and animal species than any other state. This remarkable **biodiversity** includes 5,418 plant species, 415 birds, 195 mammals, 86 reptiles, 57 amphibians, and 62 **freshwater** fish. Their continued survival depends on conservation of their habitats and is supported by a complicated patchwork of private and government owned land. While parks and preserves protect many species, humans use much of California for housing, growing crops, and grazing livestock. This affects the **habitats** required for native plants and animals.

Migratory species spend part of each year in California, then fly, walk, or swim elsewhere for the rest of the year. California's mid-latitude and coastal location places it squarely on the path of waterfowl and whale migrations between Arctic summer feeding grounds and more southerly winter locations. Birds and butterflies also travel between the Pacific Coast and interior North America. The map does not show the seasonal movement of species within California, such as deer migrations up and down mountain slopes in search of better food, or the California gull that winters on the coast and then flies across the Sierra Nevada to summer at Mono Lake.



COMPANION WEBSITE FOR

California: A Changing State

calgeography.org/california-atlas

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- Expanded glossary
- Lesson plans

The California Geographic Alliance promotes high quality and standards-based geography education. We help educators prepare students to embrace a diverse world, succeed in a global economy, and steward the planet's resources.

Sources _

Made with Natural Earth. Free vector and raster map data at www.naturalearthdata.com.

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Back cover Map of California shown as an Island, circa 1650, by Joan Vinckeboons (Library of Congress)