

# LAGOMORPHA

(Rabbits, Hares, Pikas)

## Hares

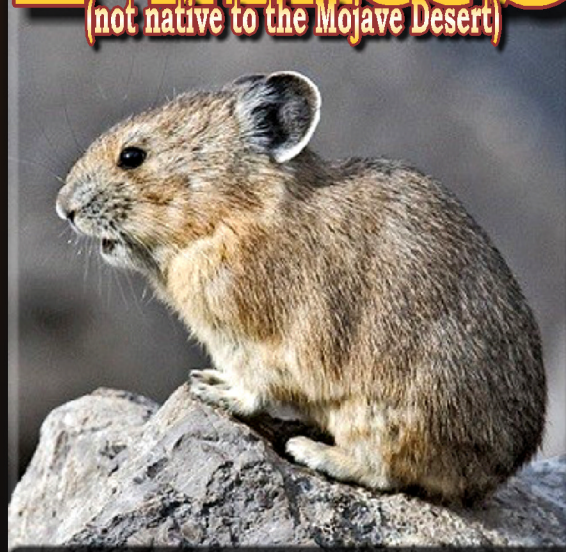


## Rabbits



## Pikas

(not native to the Mojave Desert)





# Family LEPORIDAE (Rabbits)

## Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

### Measurements:

Average Length: 15"    Average weight: 2 lbs

### Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

grayish-brown fur above, white below; rusty nape; short tail dark above, white below

### Notes:

common in w US from CA east to TX, and MT south to n Mexico in grasslands and creosote scrubland; active day and night; feeds mainly on grasses, cacti, mesquite, etc.; genders indistinguishable in the field

### Comments:

The [Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area](#) near Las Vegas, NV, seems to be a rather safe refuge to relax and take the day off away from the worries of becoming someone's lunch! These bunnies certainly seemed content to just while the day away. The one on the left found a cool spot at Red Springs...too many people present to suit potential predators. The rabbit on the right found the visitor's center just as conducive to a worry-free siesta. The youngster below chose the entrance to a tortoise burrow to find solitude and safety. Away from the dangers of the wild, such prey animals are much easier to photograph since they don't need to hide and be on guard all the time.

color matches environment



Red Rock NCA; Nevada

enjoying a lush salad



Horse Thief Spg; Kingston Mtn; CA

white  
cottony tail



Clark County Wetlands Pk; NV

not impressed!



Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV





# Family **LEPORIDAE** (Hares)

## Black-Tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*)

### Measurements:

Average Length: 23" WT: 6 lbs

### Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

grayish brown above peppered with black, undersides white; long ears (to 5 inches) with black tips; tail black above, white below; long legs and hindfeet

### Notes:

common (most abundant of the jackrabbits); ranges from west coast of US east to Dakotas and TX, south into n Mexico; eats a variety of plants, especially favoring alfalfa; genders essentially indistinguishable in the field

Mojave presence: year-round

### Comments:

Jackrabbits are easily distinguished from their rabbit cousins by their very long ears (left) and hind legs (right), as displayed by this one frolicking along at the [Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area](#) near Las Vegas, NV.



Clark Co. Wetlands Park; NV



Clark Co. Wetlands Park; NV



Horse Thief Spg; Kingston Mtn; CA



Red Rock NCA; Nevada

