

Lizards

Sequoia National Forest

Giant Sequoia National Monument



Common Sagebrush Lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus*)



Up to 3 ½ inches. This small lizard is gray to brown, typically with blotches or crossbars. Its scales are small and look slightly rough. The Common Sagebrush Lizard looks very similar to the

Western Fence Lizard, but its scales are smaller and have shorter spines. Male Common Sagebrush Lizards have dark blue patches on their bellies and throats, while females are plain whitish below. The subspecies found in this area is the Western Sagebrush Lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus gracilis*). This lizard eats spiders, ticks, scorpions, insects, and mites.

HABITAT: The Common Sagebrush Lizard is found throughout the Sierras, from 500 – 10,500 feet. It generally prefers conifer forest and brushland.

Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)

Up to 3 ½ inches. The Western Fence Lizard is very similar in

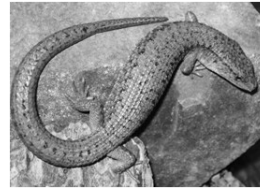


appearance to the Common Sagebrush Lizard, but its scales are larger and have longer spines. In addition, the males of this species have yellow on the back of their thighs, while the Common Sagebrush Lizard males have no yellow. There are potentially three subspecies in this area: the San

Joaquin Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis biseriatus*), the Great Basin Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*), and the Sierra Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis taylori*). This lizard eats invertebrates such as insects and spiders.

HABITAT: The Western Fence Lizard is found throughout the Sierras, up to 11,000 feet. It prefers conifer forest, brushland, and places with sunny rocky outcroppings.

Northern Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria coerulea*)



Up to about 5 ½ inches. The Northern Alligator Lizard is olive, brownish, or bluish with a dark mottled pattern. It has dark eyes, and large bony scales. The subspecies that occurs in this area is the Sierra Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria coerulea palmeri*). Alligator lizards have a distinct fold on

each side of the body and long, narrow heads. The tail of this and several other lizard species breaks off easily; avoid grabbing it. Alligator lizards may bite very hard if they are caught. The Northern Alligator Lizard does not lay eggs; it instead gives birth to young. It eats insects, spiders, ticks, millipedes, and snails.

HABITAT: The Northern Alligator Lizard is found throughout the Sierra Nevada, up to 10,500 feet. It is usually found in woodland and forest, but sometimes inhabits grassland and brushland.

Southern Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*)



Up to about 7 inches. The Southern Alligator Lizard can look similar to the Northern Alligator Lizard, but it has light colored eyes instead of dark eyes. The subspecies in this area is the San Diego Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata webbii*). The Southern Alligator

lizard lays eggs, instead of giving birth like the Northern Alligator Lizard. It eats invertebrates (including the black widow spider), lizards, small mammals, and sometimes the eggs and young of birds.

HABITAT: The Southern Alligator Lizard is found in the Sierra Nevada foothills, up to about 5,000 feet. It inhabits a wide variety of habitats, including grassland, woodland, and near streams.

Gilbert's Skink (*Plestiodon gilberti*)

Up to 4 ½ inches. Gilbert's Skink is variable in appearance, but generally is olive to brown above, and may have dark patterning. All skinks in this family have smooth, shiny scales. Young Gilbert's Skinks have a brilliant blue or pink tail that contrasts with the rest of the body. Two subspecies may be found in this area: the Greater Brown Skink (*Plestiodon gilberti gilberti*) and the Western Red-tailed Skink (*Plestiodon gilberti rubricaudatus*). It eats insects and spiders.



HABITAT: Gilbert's Skink is found throughout the Sierras, up to 7,300 feet. It lives in a wide variety of habitat, including grassland, woodland, and forest, often near streams and springs.

Western Skink (*Plestiodon skiltonianus*)

Up to about 3 inches. The Western Skink has a conspicuous white or beige dorsolateral stripe down each side that extends onto its tail. Juvenile Gilbert's Skinks may have stripes on their sides, but the stripe does not extend onto the tail. The subspecies that is in this area is Skilton's Skink (*Plestiodon skiltonianus skiltonianus*). Skinks in this family have forked tongues. The Western Skink eats insects, sowbugs, and spiders.



HABITAT: The Western Skink is located in scattered locations in the Sequoia National Forest, up to about 8,300 feet. It can be found in grassland, woodland, and forests.

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Western Divide Ranger District
32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93265
[559-539-2607](tel:5595392607)

Forest Supervisor's Office
220 E Morton Ave
Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:5597841500)



Common Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*)

Up to 2 ½ inches. The Common Side-blotched Lizard is a small brown, grey, yellowish, or black lizard with a blotched or speckled pattern, though sometimes there is no pattern. It usually has a distinct dark blotch on each of its sides, behind the front legs. The subspecies found in this area is the Western Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*). It eats insects, spiders, and other invertebrates.



HABITAT: The Common Side-blotched Lizard is found in the Sierran foothills, up to 9,000 feet. It lives in a wide variety of arid and semiarid habitats, including scrubland, grassland, and desert.

Western Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris*)

Up to 5 inches. The Western Whiptail has spots, bars, or other dark patterning on a gray, brown, tan, or yellowish background. It has a long, slender tail, and a slender snout. Juveniles have a bright blue tail, like some skinks. The subspecies found in this area is the California Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris munda*). Whiptails are well-known for being very fast, even more so than other lizards. It eats insects, spiders, scorpions, and other lizards.



HABITAT: The Western Whiptail is found in the Sierran foothills, up to 7,000 feet. It prefers arid or semiarid habitats, from woodland to scrubland where there are open areas for it to run.

Practice a Leave No Trace! Ethic.

When you leave your campsite,
Take all garbage, large and small.

PACK IT IN!

PACK IT OUT!