Crevice Spiny Lizard

Class: Reptilia  Order: Squamata  Family: Phrynosomatidae  Genus species: Sceloporus poinsettii

FIELD MARKS

Adult length ranges from 5-11.5 in.; dark crossbands cover entire body; tail is heavily barred, especially near tip; males may develop blue patches on throat and belly.

LIFE HISTORY

Birthing period is June-July. Females give birth in underground burrows to as many as eleven live young. Do not lay eggs.

DIET

• In the wild, crevice spiny lizards eat insect larvae, spiders, and tender vegetation.
• In captivity, they eat crickets.

THRUSTS TO SURVIVAL

• Collection from the wild for the pet trade is the most serious threat to their survival.

CONSERVATION STATUS

• The crevice spiny lizard is not endangered. However, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department requires a permit for any collection or use.
Green Iguana

**Class:** Reptilia  **Order:** Squamata  **Family:** Iguanidae  **Genus species:** Iguana iguana

**FIELD MARKS**

Average length is 3.2 ft., can reach 6.5 ft.; male is dark green with bright patches of color on throat fan, belly, limbs and tail; female is lighter green; skin is folded into scales, with spines on back and tail. When a male iguana enters the territory of another iguana, it will bob head, extend throat fan, and do push ups.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Female lays 8-12 eggs in a burrow and abandons them shortly thereafter. Temperature determines incubation time, which is approximately 3 weeks.

**DIET**

- In the wild, iguanas eat plant greens and fruit.
- In captivity, they eat iguana diet, greens, vegetables, and fruit.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**

- Humans have exploited iguanas in the pet trade and for their meat and eggs.
- The greatest threat to their survival is permanent habitat alteration or destruction.
- Introduced species such as feral dogs, cats, and mongooses have decreased numbers of iguanas in the wild.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- Green iguanas are not currently endangered. However, they may become so without effective pet trade regulation and habitat protection.

**RANGE & HABITAT**

- Central America and northern South America
- Savannah to tropical forests

Like other reptiles, iguana skin consists of overlapping scales, which act as a protective cover to reduce water loss. Scales may also facilitate the uptake of solar energy.
Lilac-Crowned Amazon Parrot

**Class:** Aves  **Order:** Psittaciformes  **Family:** Psittacidae  **Genus species:** Amazona finschi

**FIELD MARKS**

Wingspan is 7–8 in.; large downward-curving upper mandible, smaller upward-curving lower mandible; two outer toes point backwards and grip in opposition to two inner toes which point forward (zygodactylous); coloration is mostly green with red, blue, and lilac feathers on head and wings.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Males and females mate for life. Pair bonds are reinforced by mutual preening and feeding. Prior to courtship, male may bow, hop, wing-flick and flap, tail-wag, and strut. He may also expand his irises, a practice referred to as “eye-blazing.” Female makes nest in tree holes and lines it with grass, leaves, and bark. Male feeds female for incubation period of 26–28 days. Young are blind and helpless, and they develop slowly.

**DIET**

- In the wild, parrots feed on fruit, seeds, and nuts.
- In captivity, they eat fruit, vegetables, primate biscuits, dog kibble, seeds and nuts.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**

- Vulnerable to habitat loss, especially since they produce very few young.
- Due to the illegal pet trade, parrot populations have declined dramatically. Of the 450,000 live birds imported to the United States in 1990, 1/3 were parrots.
- Depending on the species, parrots can sell for $10,000–40,000!

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- There is an international ban on wild bird importation. Legally captive-bred parrots wear a closed numbered band on the ankle. Notice the bands on our birds. Buy only parrots with closed bands.

**RANGE & HABITAT**

- Western Mexico, from southern Sinaloa and Durango south to Oaxaca
- Zygodactylous feet and hooked bills enable them to spend most of time in the treetops

*Parrots display right and left footedness.*
Red-Tailed Boa Constrictor

**Class:** Reptilia  **Order:** Squamata  **Family:** Boidae  **Genus species:** Boa constrictor orotorii

**FIELD MARKS**

Average length is 10 ft., although they can grow to 14 ft.; light brown body covered with gray and dark brown patches with white centers; brown background progressively turns to red at tail; males smaller than females.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Male has spurs on either side of cloaca which he uses to stimulate female during mating. Female gives birth to 30-60 live young about 100 days after fertilization.

**DIET**

- In the wild, red-tailed boa constrictors eat a variety of small mammals, birds, and frogs.
- In captivity, they eat small rodents and chicks.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**

- Humans pose the greatest threat to boas.
- Farmers kill red-tailed boas because they eat chickens. Others hunt them for the pet trade. Native people kill them for their meat, or out of fear.
- Boas are very popular in the pet trade, but because of captive breeding, not all are taken from the wild.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- Red-tailed boas are not currently endangered. However, they may become so without effective pet trade regulation and habitat protection.

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**RANGE & HABITAT**

- Central America and northern South America
- Rocky, semi-desert to tropical forest
- Equally adept on ground and in trees

*Clear scales cover the eyes so that the constrictor always appears to be awake; absence of blinking aids in camouflage.*
White-Nosed Coati

Class: Mammalia  Order: Carnivora  Family: Procyonidae  Genus species: Nasua narica

RANGE & HABITAT
- Southeastern Arizona through Mexico and Central America to western Columbia and Ecuador
- Wooded or rocky areas

FIELD MARKS
Length of head and body is 1.3-2.2 ft.; length of tail is 1.0-2.25 ft.; weight up to 25 lbs.; coarse reddish-brown to black coat; long snout and tail. Coatis are members of the same family (Procyonidae) as raccoons and red pandas.

LIFE HISTORY
Breed in early spring in trees. Dens are in rocky ledges or hollow trees. From 2-6 offspring born in early summer after gestation of eleven weeks.

DIET
- In the wild, coatis forage for insects, small mammals, and fruit.
- In captivity, they eat dog kibble, meat, chicks, fruit, vegetables, bread, eggs, nuts, and insects.

THREATS TO SURVIVAL
- Coatis are sometimes killed by humans for raiding crops.

CONSERVATION STATUS
- Wild coati populations are currently stable.