

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

MT. LYELL SHREW

Sorex lyelli

Family: SORICIDAE
M002

Order: INSECTIVORA

Class: MAMMALIA

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The range of the Mt. Lyell shrew was once known from only a few locations at high elevations in the central Sierra Nevada near Mt. Lyell (Grinnell and Storer, 1924; Howell, 1924; Ingles 1965). Recent information suggests a more widespread distribution in high montane and cold steppe communities of the central and eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada (Williams, 1984; California Natural Diversity Database, 2008).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Probably eats insects and other invertebrates found while foraging on ground, in stumps, and in logs (Grinnell and Storer 1924, Ingles 1965).

Cover: Uses logs, stumps and other surface objects for cover (Grinnell and Storer 1924). Found in grass or under stream-side willows (Ingles 1965).

Reproduction: No data found.

Water: Requires moist soil; lives in riparian sites (Ingles 1965).

Pattern: No data found.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: No data found. Presumed active yearlong.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: None documented; a yearlong resident in its restricted range.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: No data found.

Reproduction: No data found. Young probably born May to August, 2-6 per litter, naked at birth. Few shrews survive a second winter.

Niche: Predators of shrews in general include owls, Steller's jays, and trout (Ingles 1965).

Comments: No published studies of the species found. Closely related to the masked shrew (*Sorex cinereus*); habits probably similar to dusky shrew.

REFERENCES

- California Natural Diversity Database. 2008. Department of Fish and Game. Biogeographic Data Branch. January 2008 version.
- Grinnell, J., and T. I. Storer. 1924. Animal life in the Yosemite. Univ. California Press, Berkeley. 752pp.
- Ingles, L. G. 1965. Mammals of the Pacific states. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA. 506pp.
- van Zyll de Jong, C. G. 1999. Mt. Lyell shrew: *Sorex lyelli*. Page 30 in Wilson, D. E. and S. Ruff, editors. The Smithsonian book of North American mammals. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington and London. 750pp.
- Williams, D. F. 1984. Habitat associations of some rare shrews (*Sorex*) from California. *J. Mamm.*, 65:325_328.

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Life history accounts for species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) System were originally published in: Zeiner, D.C., W.F.Laudenslayer, Jr., K.E. Mayer, and M. White, eds. 1988-1990. California's Wildlife. Vol. I-III. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California. Updates are noted in accounts that have been added or edited since original publication.