

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

---

INYO SHREW

*Sorex tenellus*

Family: SORICIDAE  
M008

Order: INSECTIVORA

Class: MAMMALIA

Written by: V. Johnson

Reviewed by: H. Shellhammer

Edited by: R. Duke

Updated by: CWHR Program Staff, February 2008

#### DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

A rare, yearlong resident of canyon bottoms and shaded places; found under boulders and logs (Ingles 1965). Limited to southeastern Mono and western Inyo cos. in California (Hall 1946, Hall and Kelson 1959, Ingles 1965). Most common in montane riparian and aspen habitats; less common in pinyon-juniper habitat; also found in sagebrush, bitterbrush, and alkali desert scrub habitats. Usually found in shaded damp situations less than 300 m (1000 ft) from flowing water (Burt 1934). Trapped at elevations between 1670 and 3000 m (5500 and 10,000 ft) (Burt 1934, Hall 1946, Jorgensen and Hayward 1963).

#### SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: No data found. Probably insects (Hall and Kelson 1959).

Cover: Found under boulders and logs (Ingles 1965).

Reproduction: No data found.

Water: Favors damp situations; often found near flowing water (Burt 1934, Ingles 1965).

Pattern: Riparian sites in sagebrush scrub; pinyon-juniper, and deciduous and aspen habitats are preferred (Burt 1934, Hall and Kelson 1959; Ingles 1965).

#### SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: No data found. Presumed nocturnal and crepuscular (Burt 1934).  
Active yearlong.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: None.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: No data found.

Reproduction: No data found.

Niche: Predators of shrews in general include owls, Steller's jays, and trout (Ingles 1965). The Inyo shrew is host to at least two species of mites (Allred and Goates 1964).

Comments: Also called Great Basin dwarf shrew; see Hoffmann and Owen (1980).

## REFERENCES

- Allred, D. M., and M. A. Goates. 1964. Mites from mammals at the Nevada test site. *Great Basin Nat.* 24:71-73.
- Burt, W. H. 1934. The mammals of southern Nevada. *Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.* 7:375-427.
- Hall, E. R. 1946. *Mammals of Nevada*. Univ. California Press, Berkeley. 710pp.
- Hall, E. R., and K. R. Kelson. 1959. *The mammals of North America*. 2 Vols. The Ronald Press, New York. 1162pp.
- Hoffmann, R. S., and J. G. Owen. 1980. *Sorex tenellus* and *Sorex nanus*. *Mammal. Species* No. 131. 4pp.
- Ingles, L. G. 1965. *Mammals of the Pacific states*. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA. 506pp.
- Jorgensen, C. D., and C. L. Hayward. 1963. Notes on shrews from southern Nevada. *J. Mammal.* 44:582.

M008

---

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.