

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

SHADOW CHIPMUNK

Tamias senex

Family: SCIURIDAE
M057

Order: RODENTIA

Class: MAMMALIA

Written by: T. Harvey, C. Polite

Reviewed by: M. White

Edited by: M. White, C. Polite

DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

Occurs commonly in conifer and deciduous forests and brush habitats of the North Coast, Klamath, and Cascade Ranges, the northern Sierra Nevada, and the Warner Mts. from 1000-2750 m (3300-9000 ft) (Storer and Usinger 1963). Prefers dense chaparral and forested areas with substantial shrub understories.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Shadow (once known as Allen's) chipmunks primarily are herbivorous. They forage on the ground and in litter for seeds of conifers, shrubs and forbs, and fungi. They feed in montane shrub adjacent to stands used for cover and reproduction.

Cover: Utilize dense cover of shrubs, logs, stumps, snags, and use burrows for cover.

Reproduction: Allen's chipmunks use nests in trees or snags while raising young.

Water: No data found.

Pattern: Shadow chipmunks use brushy patches in conifer habitats, and edges of rock outcrops, ridges, meadows, and chaparral.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Diurnal activity. Become torpid from November through March.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Non-migratory.

Home Range: In Washington, home ranges of *T. townsendii* females overlapped very little, suggesting exclusive use (Meredith 1972). Home ranges in Oregon varied from 0.5 to 1.0 ha (1.25 to 2.47 ac) (Gashwiler 1965).

Territory: Females probably are territorial (Meredith 1972); home range and territory probably coincide.

Reproduction: Breeding activity occurs from April through July; most births occur in May. Females produce 1 litter per yr of 4-5 young (range 3-6).

Niche: Little information available. Predators of *T. senex* include foxes, coyotes, weasels, badgers, snakes, and large birds of prey. *T. senex* ecological requirements probably similar to *T. panamintinus* (Johnson 1943). Formerly considered a race of *T. townsendii* (Sutton and Nadler 1974).

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