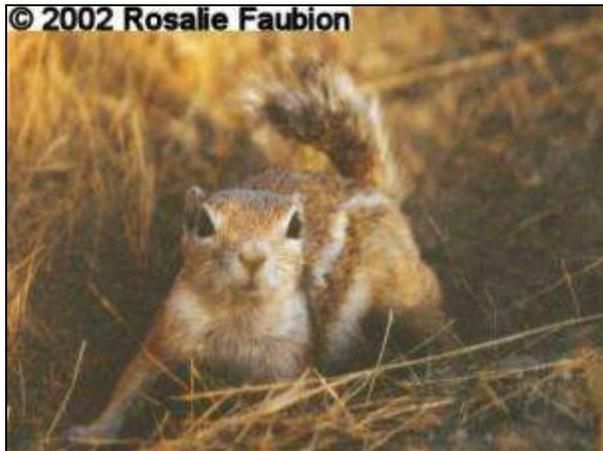


**SAN JOAQUIN ANTELOPE SQUIRREL
(AMMOSPERMOPHILUS NELSONI)**

Federal/California status: --/Threatened



Description

The San Joaquin antelope squirrel has a typical ground-squirrel shape. The upper parts are colored buffy-tan with a light stripe along the sides. These squirrels are about 9 inches (225 mm) long. The tail is about 3 inches (75 mm) long and is usually held cocked or curled over the back.

San Joaquin antelope squirrels are omnivorous, meaning they eat a variety of foods - including animal and plant material. The amount and type of food depends upon what is available. They eat green vegetation, fungi, and insects more often than seeds, even when seeds are abundant.

San Joaquin antelope squirrels live in burrows, either of their own construction or in ones dug by kangaroo rats. They are diurnal (active during the day), and are usually most active early or late in the day.

Habitat

San Joaquin antelope squirrels live in arid grassland and shrubland habitats. They are most common in areas with a cover of shrubs, including saltbushes (*Atriplex* spp.), California ephedra (*ephedra californica*), bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*), goldenbushes (*Haplopappus* spp.).

Range/distribution

In the San Joaquin Valley, these squirrels have been found in Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties.

Photo: © Rosalie Faubion

Photos

