The second most common duck in western North America, the Blue-winged Teal, migrates farther south than any other waterfowl species often reaching Venezuela and Peru.

Though the Gray whale is the most common whale species seen off the coast of California, Humpback whales and Sperm whales are also known to migrate along this coast.
Animal Migration (map on left page)

California’s diverse natural environments provide habitat for more plant and animal species than any other state. This remarkable biodiversity includes species of 5,418 plants, 415 birds, 195 mammals, 86 reptiles, 57 amphibians, and 62 freshwater fish. Their continued survival depends on a complicated patchwork of private and government owned land. While parks and reserves protect many species, humans use much of California for housing, crops, and grazing. This affects the habitats required for native plants and animals.

Migratory species spend part of each year in California, then fly, walk, or swim elsewhere for the rest of the year. California’s mid-latitude location on the globe places it squarely on the path of waterfowl and whale migrations between Arctic summer feeding grounds and more southerly winter locations. Birds and butterflies also travel between the Pacific Coast and interior North America. The map does not show the seasonal movement of species within California, such as deer migrations up and down mountain slopes in search of better food, and the California Gull that winters on the coast, and then flies across the Sierra Nevada to summer at Mono Lake.

 Companion Website for California: A Changing State
www.humboldt.edu/cga

Downloadable Maps   Downloadable Images
Interactive Maps   Lesson Plans
Expanded Glossary   Deconstructed Text

The California Geographic Alliance promotes standards-based geographic education among teachers, students, and the public. We help educators prepare students to embrace a diverse world, succeed in a global economy, and steward the planet’s resources.

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