Nature Photography

Of organisms found at Pepperwood

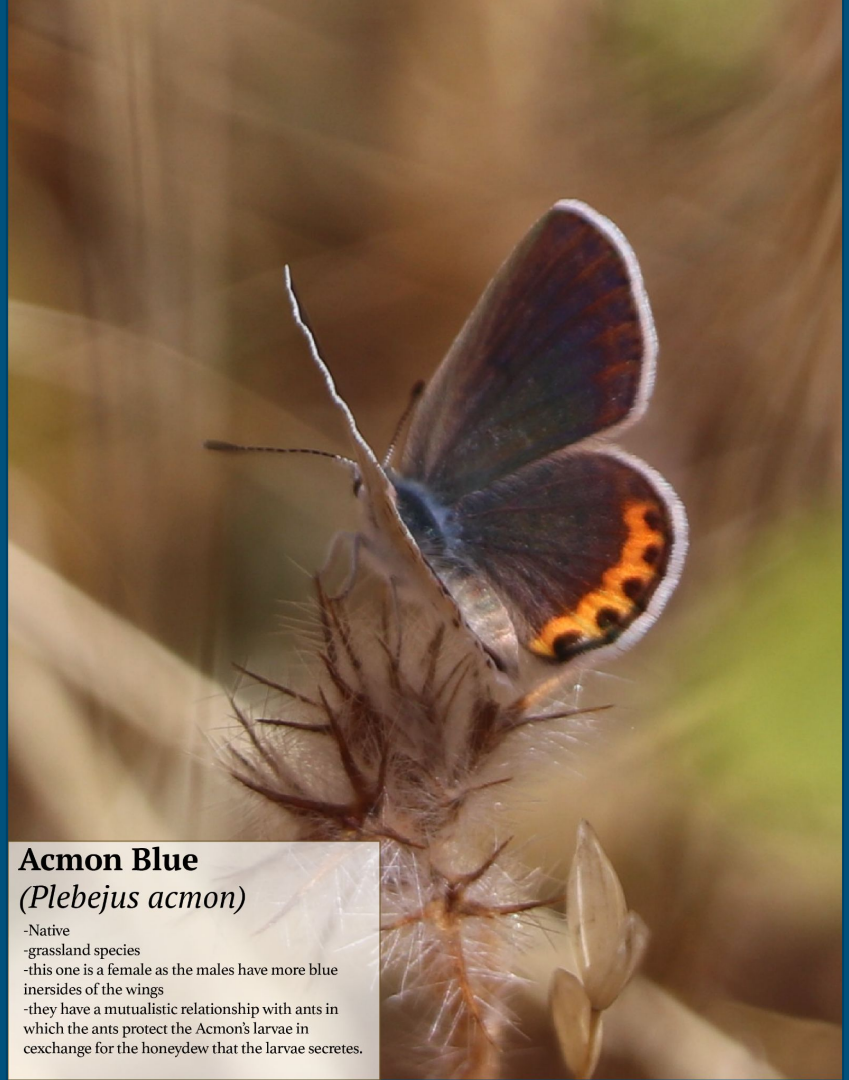
By Caty Dundas

California Poppy
(Eschscholtzia californica)

-Native
-flowers produced early in the season tend to be larger than those later on
-their spicy fragrance attracts beetles
-they are responsive to sunlight
-relatively simple to photograph if the weather allows

Western fence lizard
(Sceloporus occidentalis)

-Native
-A protein in this lizard's blood can kill the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. When ticks feed on the lizard's blood, they will no longer carry the disease
-these specific lizard was found in the early morning and was still half asleep



Acmon Blue
(Plebejus acmon)

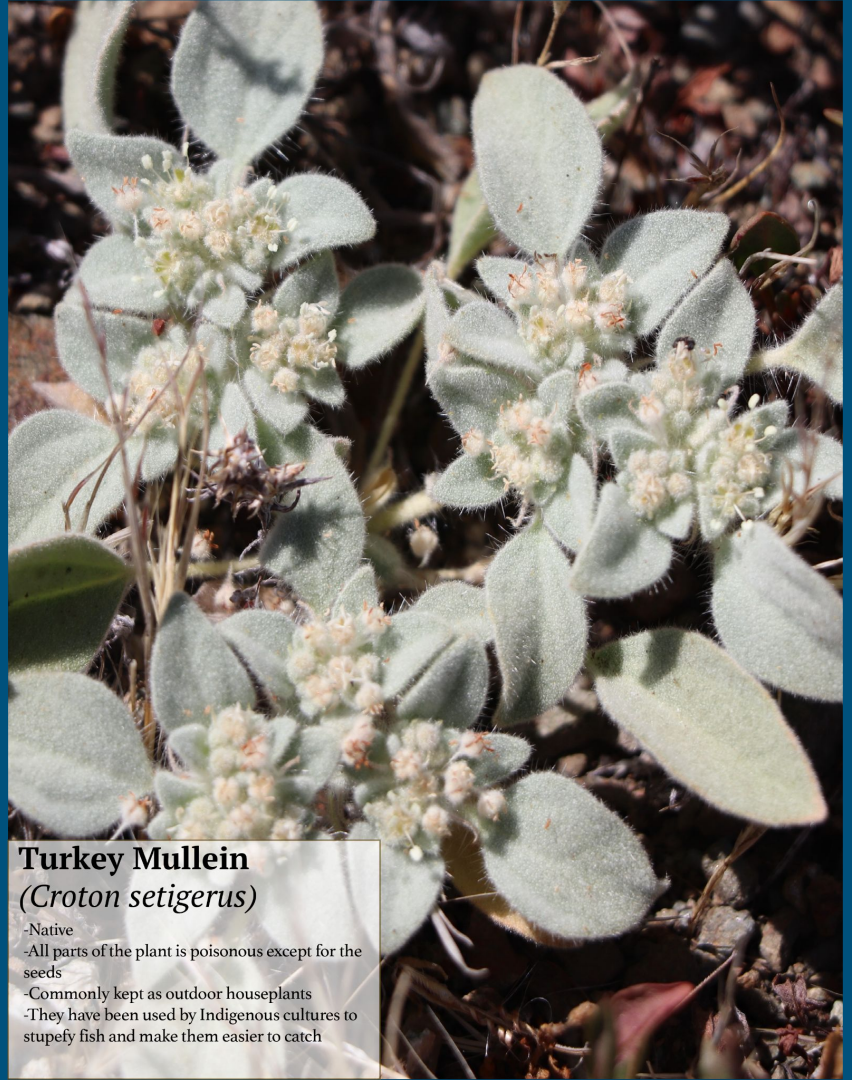
-Native
-grassland species
-this one is a female as the males have more blue inersides of the wings
-they have a mutualistic relationship with ants in which the ants protect the Acmon's larvae in cexchange for the honeydew that the larvae secretes.

Feild Bindweed
(Convolvulus arvensis)

-Invasive
-Native to Europe and Asia
-Once rooted, it can be nearly impossible to irradicate
-dense infestations can reduce crops by up to 60%

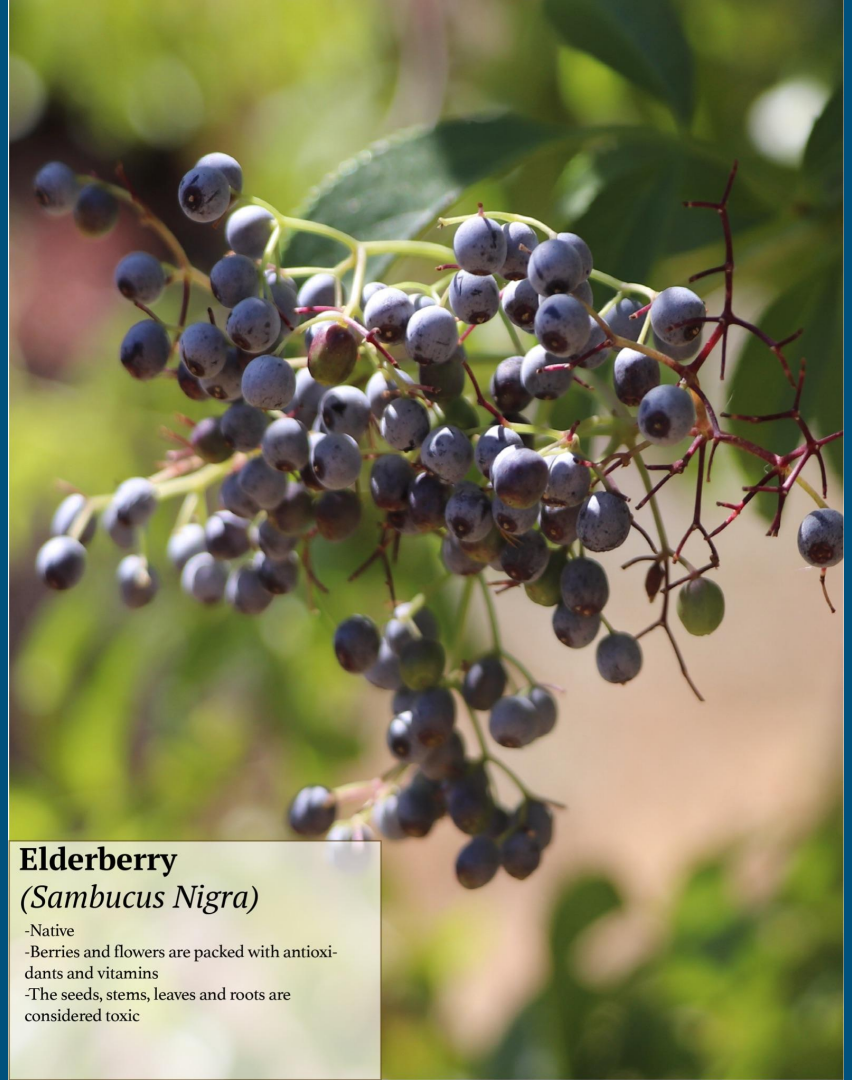
Lesser Goldfinch
(Spinus psaltria)

-Native
-Commonly found feeding on backyard bird-feeders
-Smallest of all the goldfinches
-Jerks it tail while feeding



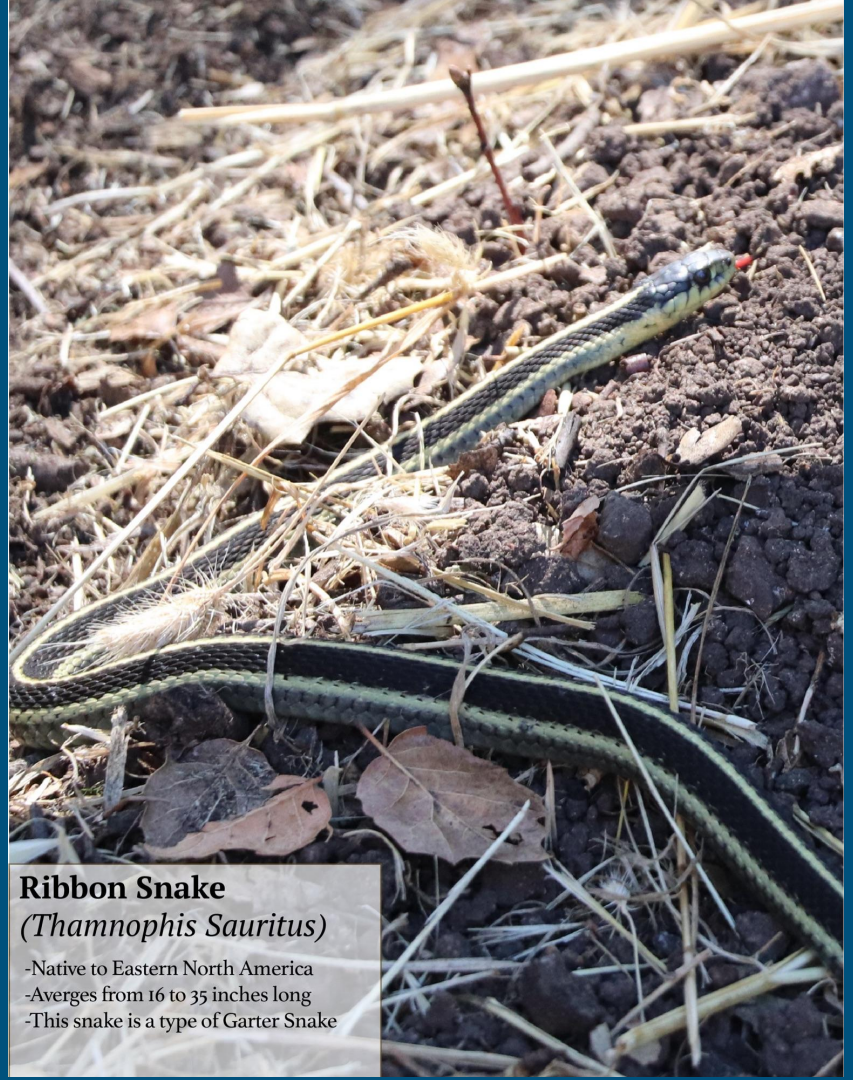
Turkey Mullein
(Croton setigerus)

-Native
-All parts of the plant is poisonous except for the seeds
-Commonly kept as outdoor houseplants
-They have been used by Indigenous cultures to stupefy fish and make them easier to catch



Elderberry
(Sambucus Nigra)

-Native
-Berries and flowers are packed with antioxidants and vitamins
-The seeds, stems, leaves and roots are considered toxic



Ribbon Snake
(Thamnophis Sauritus)

-Native to Eastern North America
-Averges from 16 to 35 inches long
-This snake is a type of Garter Snake

Bumblebee
(Genus Bombus)
-Common
-Over 250 species in the genus
-Unsure as to which species this bumblebee is

Blue-tailed Skink
(Cryptoblepharus egeriae)
-Native to North America
-Discards it's blue tail during an attack to distract predators

Thank you for watching!

Camera used:

Canon T7i Rebel

Editing software:

Adobe illustrator

Research:

Amazing staff at Teennat, respected research websites, and iNaturalist.com

Audubon.com, Calscape.org, Feildguide,mtv.gov