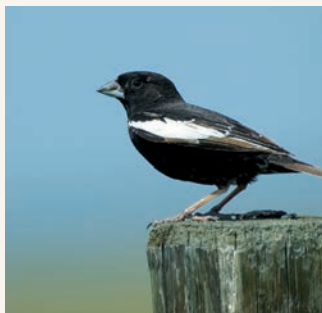
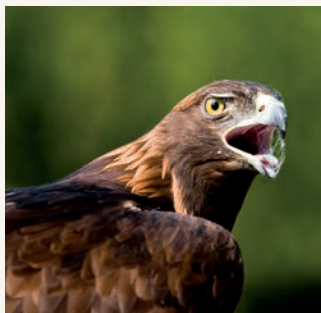


# What Colorado creature Are you?



by patricia  
kqowthumrong

Take our short quiz to find out which animal best represents your personality, then read on to learn more about our wild neighbors, including where to spot them.

## I'd prefer to roam ...

- a** On the peaceful plains
- b** In evergreen forests
- c** Amid pinyon-juniper woodlands
- d** On high-mountain passes
- e** Near water, preferably a pond or slow-moving stream

## Which meal sounds most appealing to you?

- a** A medley of fried grasshoppers, beetles, bees and ants
- b** A salad of grasses, leaves and bark
- c** A plate of roasted rabbit, squirrel or deer
- d** A bowl of steamed flowering plants, garnished with grass
- e** A buffet of earthworms, crickets and minnows

## How do you tend to act around someone you're trying to impress?

- a** I break into song
- b** I strut around and make loud bugling sounds
- c** I show off my dancing skills — maybe perform some backflips
- d** I pick fights with my competitors, potentially by shoving or headbutting them
- e** I go in for a smooch

## What is your preferred driving speed?

- a** 25 miles per hour
- b** 45 miles per hour
- c** 35 miles per hour (or 150 miles per hour if I'm hungry)
- d** 20 miles per hour
- e** Less than 5 miles per hour

## Which hat fits your personality best?

- a** A feathered headpiece, perhaps something you'd see at a royal wedding
- b** A furry beanie
- c** A leather aviator hat
- d** A horned Viking helmet
- e** Psh, I don't need a hat; my outfit is always colorful enough

## I get thrills from ...

- a** Chilling in a rural field
- b** Making friends at the local watering hole
- c** Aerial acrobatics
- d** Ascending steep rocks
- e** Hiding under my covers

## How would you describe yourself?

- a** I'm mysterious; I'm not who you think I am
- b** I'm social; I enjoy hanging out with my herd
- c** I'm flashy; I love showing off
- d** I'm athletic; I was born to climb Colorado's rugged mountains
- e** I'm independent; I like being alone

See next  
page for  
results.



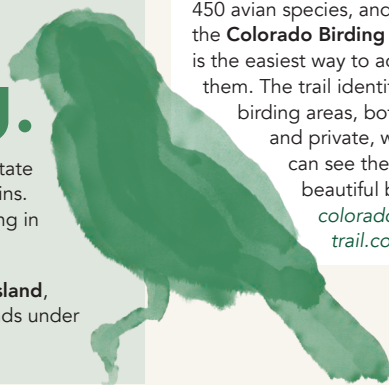
# the results

if you picked mostly **A**s:

## You're a Lark bunting.

Not categorized as a lark or a bunting, Colorado's state bird is actually a sparrow that inhabits the Great Plains. Listen for male lark buntings, which are known to sing in flight, particularly in the early summer.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** Pawnee National Grassland, between Greeley and Sterling, and other prairielands under 8,000 feet in elevation.



## Look to the skies

Colorado is home to more than 450 avian species, and following the **Colorado Birding Trail** is the easiest way to admire them. The trail identifies prime birding areas, both public and private, where you can see the states' beautiful birds.

[coloradobirdingtrail.com](http://coloradobirdingtrail.com)

if you picked mostly **B**s:

## You're an elk.

Elk are highly social animals that travel in herds throughout the year. In the fall, bull (male) elk compete for the affection of females by showing off their antlers and attempting to intimidate rival males by making a distinct bugling sound.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** Estes Park (visit during the **Elk Fest** in September to hear a symphony of bugles) and Moraine Park or Kawuneeche Valley in **Rocky Mountain National Park**.



if you picked mostly **C**s:

## You're a golden eagle.

These large raptors can have wingspans of up to 7 feet and can dive at prey at up to 150 miles per hour. Males are known to perform aerial feats (a.k.a. sky dancing) to impress females, and couples often mate for life.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction and Guanella Pass near Georgetown.



## favorite zoos & wildlife refuges

Animal encounters are guaranteed at these beloved sanctuaries.



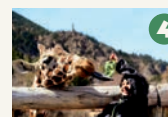
**1** Baca National Wildlife Refuge, Crestone



**2** Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge, Maybell



**3** Butterfly Pavilion, Westminster



**4** Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs



**5** Colorado Gators Reptile Park, Mosca



**6** Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, Divide



**7** Denver Zoo



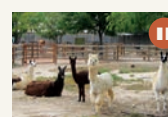
**8** The Wild Animal Sanctuary, Keenesburg



**9** Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, Arvada



**10** Mission: Wolf, Westcliffe



**11** Pueblo Zoo

FROM TOP: KAYT JONSSON/USFWS; FLICKR/CARFULL; BUTTERFLY PAVILION; CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO; COLORADO GATORS REPTILE PARK; FLICKR/ANDREWANDKATHY; DENVER ZOO; THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY; FLICKR/JAMIEOTTERBEIN; BARTON GLASSER PHOTOGRAPHY; FLICKR/GREG GOEBEL.



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Ski on glassy waters of a dozen uncrowded lakes and reservoirs.  
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And embrace the friendliness you'll find in small towns along the way.

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THE OTHER COLORADO

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[canyonsandplains.com](http://canyonsandplains.com)



CANYONS  
& PLAINS



if you picked mostly **d**s:

## You're a bighorn sheep.

Colorado's majestic state mammal has horns that can weigh up to 40 pounds and flexible hooves that are equipped with soft spongy pads, allowing them to traverse mountain slopes and cling to rocks.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** Mount Evans Scenic Byway near Idaho Springs and Bighorn Sheep Canyon near Cañon City.

### Care for Colorado

Find Seven Principles that you can use to protect our special places as you travel around the state at [COLORADO.com/LeaveNoTrace](http://COLORADO.com/LeaveNoTrace).



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TOURISM OFFICE



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if you picked mostly **e**s:

## You're a tiger salamander.

Our state amphibian prefers to live underground in burrows or under rocks and is known for its colorful striped appearance. They can actually live in diverse habitats — from desert to alpine tundra — as long as there is at least seasonal water nearby.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve near Alamosa and Pearl Lake State Park near Steamboat Springs.

## colorado state parks

Colorado's 41 state parks are havens for wildlife watching and outdoor recreation. Catch a glimpse of bald and golden eagles at John Martin Reservoir State Park near Las Animas, or spy on river otters and mule deer at Navajo State Park in Arboles.

## other ANIMALS to watch for



**1** **Mountain goats** aren't true goats, but the ivory-colored, horned animals living in the most inaccessible reaches of Colorado reminded early settlers of farm goats.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction and Pikes Peak Highway in Colorado Springs.



**2** While presumed to be extinct by 1937, a population of **native greenback cutthroat trout** (Colorado's state fish) was discovered in the South Platte and Arkansas river basins in the late 1950s — launching an aggressive conservation campaign.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** Volunteer on a Greenback Cutthroat Trout Recovery Project with Trout Unlimited.



**3** In early spring, more than 24,000 **greater sandhill cranes** stop at the **Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge** in southern Colorado's **San Luis Valley** on their flight back to Canada after a winter spent sunning in Mexico.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** March's Monte Vista Crane Festival and August's Yampa Valley Crane Festival in Steamboat Springs and Hayden (when they stop in northwest Colorado en route back to their winter digs).



**4** **Bison**, America's first national mammal, graze on native grasses and disturb the soil with their hooves, allowing many plant and animal species to flourish.

**WHERE TO SEE THEM:** Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge near Denver and Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Red Mountain Open Space near Fort Collins.

Patricia Kaowthumrong is a Colorado native and hungry traveler. She loves feasting at local restaurants with family and friends, car camping with her husband and two dogs, and rooting for Colorado sports teams, notably the University of Colorado Buffaloes.

**WANT MORE?**  
[COLORADO.COM/WILDLIFE](http://COLORADO.COM/WILDLIFE)