

I, Spy...SPIDERS!



★ Spiders eat pests like mosquitoes, flies, roaches, earwigs, fleas, clothing moths, and garden aphids (400-800 million TONS per year worldwide)!

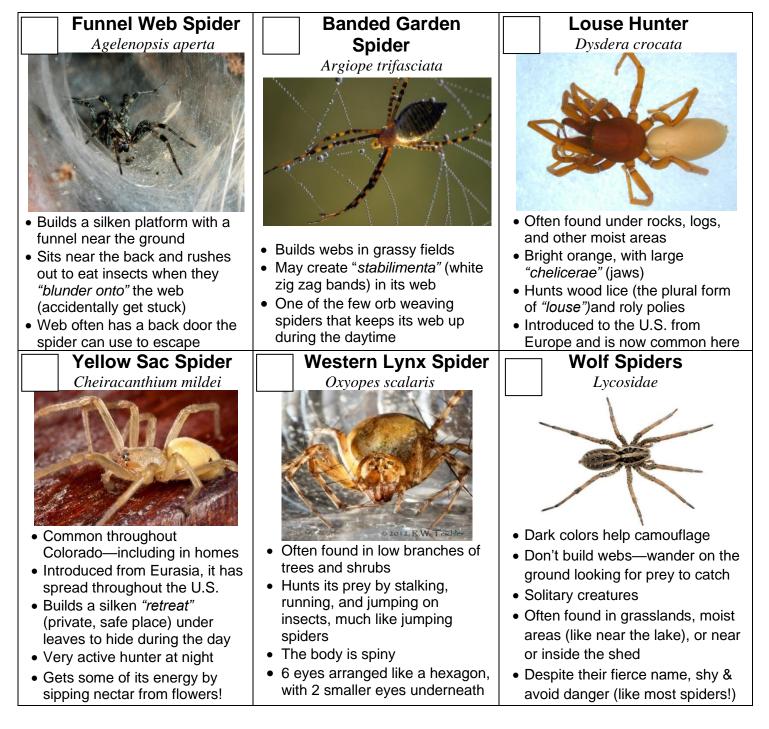
Spiders are food in a healthy ecosystem for many small mammals, birds, & fish!

- Spiders are SHY, not aggressive! They prefer to hide & runaway from danger.
- Only ONE spider in Colorado has venom of medical importance to humans (western black widow), and it will ONLY bite humans if seriously provoked!



The Bluff Lake site is home to at least 100 different spider species!

Can you find any of these spiders often seen at Bluff Lake? Put a check mark in the box when you spot one!



Apache Jumping Bold Jumping Spider Cobweb Weaver Spider Enoplognatha ovata *Phidippus audax Phidippus apacheanus* Striking white markings among Like all types of jumping spiders, Can be found in messy webs deep black "setae" (hair-like to hunt it creeps up on prey then under leaves in shrubs structures) on the body JUMPS onto it by surprise! • Female guardsbluisheggsac • Bright green "chelicerae" (jaws) • Bright orange-red markings • Young spiderlings stay near • Like all types of jumping spiders, it their mother until they can build • Jaws are *"iridescent"* (shimmer has extremely good eyesight webs & hunt on their own and seem to change color) • If you encounter one, move your • When they are old enough to • Active during the day finger in front of its eyes and it will leave their mother, they balloon • Female often deposits soft, off on strands of silk track the movement! silken eggsac under bark Crab Spiders Slender Crab Spider Western Black Widow Thomisidae Tibellus oblongus Latrodectus hesperus Bright red markings on underside Very messy webs close to the Often found on flowers ground with strong silk • The slender crab spider is a Hold their leas to the side of • • Only spider in CO with venom of "running crab spider" in a their bodies and scuttle side-"medical importance" to humans different family (philodromidae) to-side like a crab from the crab spiders in the • Will only bite humans if seriously They are sit-and-wait • provoked. Venom takes a lot of previous entry (thomisidae) predators energy to make-they'd rather • Commonly found in the grassy When a pollinating insect • use it on something they can eat! fields of Bluff Lake comes to visit the flower... • Bites can be very paintful, but • Buff-colored body with a central POW! The crab spider grabs symptoms typically resolve in 48 stripe down the middle the insect with its first two hours untreated • Its colors and markings give it pairs of spiny legs great camouflage Often very colorful, and some Antivenon is available – if bitten. • · Hides among grasses and try to take whatever remains of can change their body color to the spider with you to the hospital vegetation match the flower!

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Photos provided by R.W. Teichler, P.E. Cushing, Frank Hall, Buzz Morrison, and George Raming

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