Hippies, devoted conservationists or animal fanatics — call us what you will, but Coloradans aren’t ashamed to face up to loving our wild neighbors. Get to know some of Colorado’s nonhuman inhabitants alphabet-style, and come fall in love with them yourself. Learn more at COLORADO.com/Wildlife.

Abert’s Squirrel
These invertebrate dwellers of Rocky Mountain National Park are recognized by their ear tufts, which are more prominent in the winter and almost disappear in the summer.

Bighorn Sheep
The skull and horns of Colorado’s bighorn sheep can weigh up to 40 pounds. About 7,500 live in Colorado — more than any other state.

Columbine
Columbine is a state flower. It is one of many species of wildflowers that blanket our alpine meadows. In eastern Colorado, wildflowers begin blooming in April or May. In western Colorado, they often don’t pop up until July or August.

D camerino State Park
Located in a steep, rugged side canyon, Bear Creek State Park offers visitors hiking trails and picnic areas.

Elk
Listen for barks, chirps, growls and squeals from elk, who are known to vocalize with one another — as signal danger — and make the conversation.

Falcon
The Peregine Falcon, the fastest bird in the air, can reach speeds of more than 200 miles per hour during a dive. Keep your eyes out for it in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Dinosaur National Monument.

Greenback Cutthroat Trout
Colorado’s state fish was presumed to be extinct by 1937, but a population was discovered in Colorado’s South Platte and Arkansas basins in the late 1970s.

Hummingbird
Get them drinking on the nectar of Colorado’s wildflowers during the summer. Their nests, which are constructed by spider webs, are the size of walnut shells, while their eggs are the size of 0.5-Tac breath mints.

Idaho Springs
The historic mining town is situated at the start of Mount Evans Scenic Byway, the highest paved road in North America. At Mount Evans summit, you can spot mountain goats, bighorn sheep, picas and marmots.

Karval Mountain
Plover Festival
Specators head to Karval for this April festival to see colorful birds in the shortgrass prairie of the western plains.

Lark Bunting
Not categorized as a lark or a bunting, Colorado’s state bird is actually a sparrow that inhabits the Great Plains.

Mountain Goats
Well suited for climbing sheep, rocky slopes, mountain goats feel at home in places that provide traction, like the tracks that can spread apart, and sharp, non-slip surfaces on the tips of their feet.

National Parks
Colorado has four national parks, seven national monuments and 31 national forests. Add Rocky Mountain National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park to your bucket list.

Owls
Colorado is home to 13 owl species, including the great horned, barn, snowy, small eastern and western screech and boreal poppy.

Western Painted Turtle
Colorado’s state reptile can be found in and near bodies of water throughout western Colorado. They can live to be 15 to 25 years old and swim within several miles of their homes along streams.

Rocky Mountain National Park
The park covers 415 square miles with Estes Park on the east and Grand Lake on the west. Wildlife includes elk, big-horn sheep, moose, deer, moose, birds, white-tailed pheasants, bears, Steller’s jays, golden eagles, pika and prairie falcons.

Sandhill Crane
Visitors from around the world flock to the Sandhill Crane Festival in late July for the world’s largest assembly of sandhill cranes. The festival includes wildlife tours, educational programs and live entertainment.

Tiger Salamander
Colorado’s state amphibian is found near ponds and lakes at elevations of up to 12,000 feet.

Utah State Park
Located on the eastern edge of the Coastal Plain, Bear Creek State Park offers visitors hiking trails and picnic areas.

Upland Game Bird
One small-game species license is all that’s needed to hunt upland game birds, including band-tailed pheasants, mourning or the aspen-colored doves, English or house sparrows and dusky ducks. Get yours at cpw.state.co.us.

Viewing Areas for Wildlife
Colorado has many viewing areas for wildlife, including high mountain peaks where you can easily drive up and spot high-altitude inhabitants such as marmots, grays, white-tailed pheasants, picas, elk and big-horn sheep. Visit cpw.state.co.us for locations.

Vista Grande
Looking east from Vista Grande, the high point along the Santa Fe Trail, you can see the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the San Luis Valley.

White-Tailed Ptarmigan
The smallest of the grouse species, these feathered beauties reside at high elevations year-round. To blend in with the scenery, they are mottled brown and gray in the summer and turn white in the winter.

Yampa River State Park
Located in the Yampa Valley west of Steamboat Springs, the park is home to elk, deer and elkhe, as well as a number of aspen species, including bald eagles and blue herons.

Zoo
From your farms to butterfly pavilions, you can take a walk on the wild side at Colorado’s many zoos and aquaria. Highlights include the Denver Zoo in Denver, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Pueblo ZOO in Pueblo and Colorado Gators Reptile Park in Moab.

A black bear can be black, brown, cinnamon, chocolate-colored or even white.