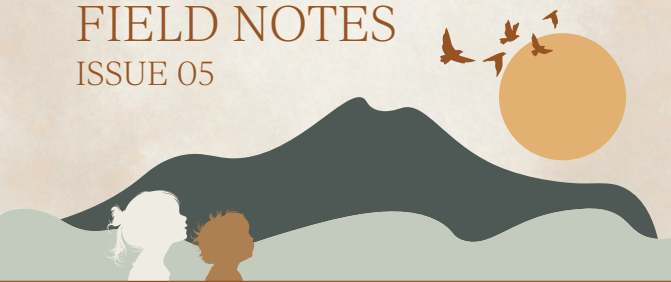# Nat Theo Club
FIELD NOTES
ISSUE 05

Pronghorn
UNGULATE (LARGE HOOVED ANIMALS)

HABITAT:

Open prairie and desert. Western North America.

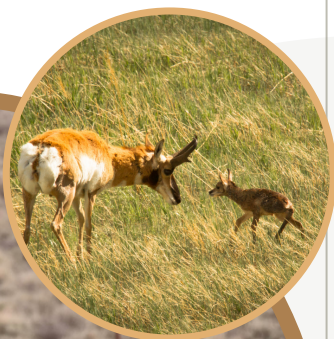DIET:

Prairie grasses and shrubs.

FUN FACTS:

Pronghorns are the fastest mammals in North America, able to run at 60 miles per hour!

Often called antelope, but are not related to true antelope which are native to Africa and Asia.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A TOUGH JOURNEY?

The first time I saw wild pronghorn up close, they were on the move. My family was driving down a dirt road in our car when we encountered fourteen wild pronghorns. They were running ahead of our car, and I kept waiting for them to turn to the right and jump a fence, but they did not. My husband explained to me that pronghorns rarely ever jump. I have seen this many times since when we encountered pronghorn. They do everything they can to avoid jumping over a fence. This is surprising because pronghorns make incredible migration journeys, around 200 miles each way. How do they make it so far without jumping over many fences on their routes? They have some help along the way. Many ranchers have replaced the lowest wire on their fence with a smooth wire instead of a spiky barbed one to allow pronghorn to easily slip beneath them. Others have clipped up their bottom wire in certain areas where they know the pronghorns cross through to allow easy passage. Because of these kind efforts, pronghorns can follow their God–given intuition to migrate and continue to spread and thrive across Western America.

Proverbs 16:9 says, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

Like ranchers preparing the way for the pronghorns, God prepares the way ahead of us, removing obstacles or helping us through them.

Have you ever seen a pronghorn baby? I think they are the cutest babies in the animal world and I love seeing them in the wild! Ask a parent to find a photo or video to show you a baby pronghorn.

Eryn Lynum
Master Naturalist, Bible Teacher,
Host of the Nat Theo Podcast
erynlynum.com

March 10, 2024