

Flora and Fauna of Sausal Creek

Produced by Wholly H2O, (Aubrey Fife), April 2022

Birds

Anna's Hummingbird

Calypte anna

3.9 to 4.3 in long with a wingspan of 4.7 in. Iridescent red crown and gorget, bronze-green back. Long, straight, and slender bills.



Photo by Bridget Spencer/CC BY-NC

Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

Colored for camouflage with white belly with brown barring. Wings and head are darker brown with feathered horns. Silent when they fly.



Photo by Paul G. Johnson/CC BY-NC-SA

Steller's Jay

Cyanocitta stelleri

12-13 in long. More slender bill and longer legs than the blue jay, as well as a pronounced chest. Nests in tree hollows, eat rodents, seeds, nuts, berries, and invertebrates.



Photo by Kai Schreiber/CC BY-SA

Dark-eyed Junco

Junco hyemalis

5.1 to 6.9 in long. Song consists of trills, ticks, and chirps. Prefers coniferous forest areas. Forages on the ground for insects and seeds.



Photo by Tom Murray/CC BY-NC

Lesser Goldfinch

Spinus psaltria

Smallest true finch in the world, ranges from 1.5 to 1.9 in long. Bright yellow underbellies and white patches in the tail. Lays blue-white eggs.



Photo by Francisco Sarabia /CC BY

Red-shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

15-23 in long with a wingspan from 35 to 50 in. Brownish heads, reddish chests and bellies marked with white bars. Forest raptors/hunters.



Photo by Richard Wottrich/CC BY-NC

California Towhee

Melospiza crissalis

8.3-9.8 in long. Matte brown all around, with a rusty patch beneath tail and around bill. Thick beak used for cracking seeds. Hide in shrubbery.



Photo by Lucina M/CC BY-NC

Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

18-24 in long with a wingspan from 41 to 56 in. Dark brown upper head, dark brown spotting on the underside with dark brown top feathers.



Photo by Tom Murray/CC BY-NC

Birds

Hairy Woodpecker

Dryobates villosus
Medium-sized, black tail and wings with white/pale back and belly. Inhabits deciduous forests and forage on trees for insects, fruits, and sap.



Photo by Gavan Watson/CC BY-NC-SA

Wilson's Warbler

Cardellina pusilla
Small bird, only 4.7 in long. Greenish back and yellow belly and black head cap. Song is a chattering series of descending notes. Eats mainly insects.



Photo by Nick Nirschl/CC BY-NC

Oak Titmouse

Calypte anna
Small, brown-gray bird with tuft on head. Prefers open woods with oak trees. Nests in natural cavities. Eats mainly insects and spiders. Song is a "tsicka-dee-dee."



Photo by Doug Greenberg/CC BY-NC

Spotted Towhee

Pipilo maculatus
Large sparrow with red sides, dark head, back, and tail with white belly and spots on wings. Nests on the ground or in low bushes. Forages on ground for insects.



Photo by Greg Lasley/CC BY-NC

Ruby-Crowned Kinglet

Regulus calendula
Very small bird with olive green plumage. Males have red crown. Mainly eats insects. Constantly active, moving along branches and wing-flicking.



Photo by nigel/CC BY

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus
Body length 13-23 in and wingspan 29-47 in. Feeds on medium-sized birds. Non tall buildings or bridges. Fastest animal in the world when stooping.



Photo by w_fran/CC BY-NC

Western Bluebird

Sialia Mexicana
Small bird, bright blue on top and throat with orange breast and grey belly. Nests in cavities. Pounces on ground when looking for worms and berries.



Photo by Jamie Chavez/CC BY-NC

Cedar Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum
Medium-sized bird with silky/shiny brown, gray, and yellow feathers. Song is high whistles and mainly eat berries and sit in fruiting trees.



Photo by Joanne Redwood/CC BY-NC

Nuttall's Woodpecker

Dryobates nuttallii
Black wings and tail feathers with white barring. Has a red crown for males. Feeds on insect larvae in oak trees or sap from birch and willow.



Photo by Alex Bairstow/CC BY-NC

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Poecile rufescens
Small bird with dark head and white cheeks. Survives harsh temperatures and feeds on large insects.



Photo by Garth Harwood/CC BY

Insects

Variable Checkerspot

Euphydryas chalcedona
Brown or black with extensive white and yellow checkering and red coloration. Feed on nectar from flowers.



Monarch

Danaus plexippus
Wings have black, orange, and white pattern. Annual southward late-summer/autumn migration from north US to Mexico.



Convergent Lady Beetle

Hippodamia convergens
Diet consists mainly of aphids, but also eat honeydew, nectar, and petals. Lays 200-300 eggs over the spring.



Pacific Spiketail

Cordulegaster dorsalis
Vivid, black bodied dragonfly with yellow spots and a long abdomen. Larvae feed on aquatic insects, and adults eat flying insects.



Umbur Skipper

Lon melane
A butterfly with umber brown wings. The forewing has a darker disk and pale spots and the hindwing has a yellow-brown band. Feed on flower nectar.



Vivid Dancer

Argia vividia
Dragonfly commonly found in springs and forests. Associated with bright blue color. Other variations include red, brown, or grey.



Red Admiral

Vanessa atalanta
Butterfly with black wings, red bands, and white spots. Found in moist woodlands. Drinks from flowering plants like Buddleia and overripe fruit.



Anise Swallowtail

Papilio zelicaon
Swallowtail butterfly with black wings with a broad yellow stripe across. Red eyespots near the tails of each wing.



Painted Lady

Vanessa cardui
A butterfly with orange and brown on the upper side and shades of brown and gray on the underside. Has lots of splashes and dots of color. Likes dry, open, areas.



Black-tailed Bumblebee

Bombus melanopygus
Yellow and orange stripes with a black sting. Feeds on lilacs, manzanitas, lupines. Nests underground or aboveground in structures.



Aquatic Insects (Kathleen Harris)

Tube Maker Caddisflies

Family
Polycentropodidae
Larvae construct silken tubes to live in, built in hollow rocks in the water. Trumpet-net and tube-making.



Case-maker Caddisfly (larva)

Order Trichoptera, many families
10-15 mm, makes its home of pebbles or plants, usually found attached to rocks.



Small Minnow Mayfly (nymph)

Order Ephemeroptera, Family Baetidae
3-12 mm, brown, torpedo-shaped, fast crawler, wingpads, abdominal gills, three cerci/tails.



Little Brown Stonefly (nymph)

Order Plecoptera, Family Nemouridae
4-9 mm, gills jut out between head and thorax. Prefers clean water, found in creek.



Pond Damselfly (nymph/naiad)

Order Odonata (Zygoptera), Family Coenagrionidae
13-25 mm, fast, big eyes, three leaf-like gills after abdomen. Found in stream edges.



True fly (larva)

Order Diptera, many families
2 mm to 4 inches (depending on family)
Looks like a worm with a head and stumpy legs. Found in pooled creek regions.



Plants-trees

California Bay

Umbellularia californica
Large evergreen tree, up to 98 ft tall. Wood ranges from blonde to brown. Has small yellow flowers and green berries.



Coast Redwood

Sequoia sempervirens
One of the tallest trees on Earth, reaching up to 379 ft tall with 30 in trunk. Soft and fibrous red-brown bark with long and flat spirally arranged leaves.



California Live Oak

Quercus agrifolia
Medium-sized oak tree with a branched trunk. Grows up to 82 feet tall. The leaves are ovular with spiny-toothed fibers.



Golden Chinquapin

Chrysolepis chrysophylla
Shrubs appear in dry areas, trees grow up to 148 ft in moist areas. Red bark with gold flowers and burrs.



Plants-shrubs, bushes, flowers

Evergreen Huckleberry

Vaccinium ovatum
Small to medium-sized shrub, often found sprouting from logs. Grows well in shade and produces edible berries during the summer.



Photo by James Gaither/CC BY-NC-ND

Western Sword Fern

Polystichum munitum
Evergreen fern with dark green fronds. Grows up to 6 feet tall in a tight clump. Prefer moist, wooded climates and light sunlight.



Photo by Anthony Mendoza/CC BY-NC-SA

Broadleaf Forget-Me-Not

Myosotis latifolia
Oval leaves at the base of the stem with flowers with a pink or blue face up to a centimeter wide. Prefers moist, shaded areas.



Photo by Terrie Schweitzer/CC BY-NC-SA

Trailing Blackberry

Rubus ursinus
Wide, mounting shrub or vine which grows to more than 6 feet. Leaves have 3 leaflets. Flowers are white with narrow petals.



Photo by northvandad/CC BY-NC-ND

Western Columbine

Aquilegia formosa
Herb that grows 20-80 cm in height. 5 cm long red flowers bloom from April to August. Plateau Indians used it for perfume or medicine.



Photo by Saelon Renkes/CC BY-NC

California Mugwort

Artemisia douglasiana
Prefers direct sunlight and moist soils, tolerates shady and dry. Bell-shaped clustered flowers from May to October.



Photo by Diego Tamayo/CC BY-NC

Red Flowering Currant

Ribes sanguineum
Shrub that grows up to 10 feet tall and broad. Produces pink flowers up to a centimeter wide. Indigenous people used the berries for food.



Photo by Minette Layne/CC BY-NC

Orange Bush Monkeyflower

Diplacus aurantiacus
Grows up to 4 feet tall. Sticky leaves up to 7 cm long, and tubular flowers ranging from white to red. Honey plants pollinated by bees or hummingbirds.



Photo by emilyfinette/CC BY-NC

Poison Hemlock

Conium maculatum
Highly poisonous flowering plant. Can reach heights of 8 feet. Has smooth, green, stem and the flower is small and white with five petals each.



Photo by Lee Jaffe/CC BY-NC-SA

Giant Wakerobin

Trillium chloropetalum
Three large leaves with a single. Petals vary in color from yellow to purple. Flowers from February to April.



Photo by Dawn Endico/CC BY-SA

Plants-shrubs, bushes, flowers

Blue Dicks

Conium maculatum
Height up to 60 cm.
Flowers are blue or purple. Gathered by Native Americans in California as a source of starch in their diets. Flowering peaks in March.



Photo by Jennifer Chandler/CC BY-NC

Wavy-leaved Soap Plant

Trillium chloropetalum
Six long, curving, white petals. Only open in late-afternoon or evening. Used by Native Americans as medicine and food.



Photo by Lorri Gong/CC BY-NC-ND

Pallid Manzanita

Arctostaphylos pallida
California endangered species. Tall shrub that can grow up to 4 meters tall. Requires cool, moist sites. Frequently found with brittleleaf manzanita.



Photo by Pete Klosterman/CC

Brittleleaf Manzanita

Arctostaphylos crustacea
Shrub 3-5 feet in height. Light pink to white flowers that bloom February through April. Many subspecies.



Photo by Morgan Stickrod/CC BY-NC

Toyon

Heteromeles arbutifolia
Shrub that grows 2-5 meters tall. Produces small white flowers in summer, which mature into bright red, berry-like pome fruits in the fall and winter.



Photo by Debbie Ballentine/CC BY-ND

Goldback Fern

Pentagramma triangularis
Grows up to 6 to 12 inches. Light yellow powdery coating on the underside of fern which inhibits moisture loss. Fronds are bright green.



Photo by Johnson Earls/CC BY-NC-ND

Baldhip Rose

Rosa gymnocarpa
Shrub that grows up to 2 meters. Stem covered in spines. Pink or white flowers with 5 petals. Fruit is a red rose hip. Grows in shady, damp forests.



Photo by Doug Murphy/CC BY-SA

Douglas Iris

Iris douglasiana
Leaves are 2 centimeters wide. Stems are about 6 to 32 inches tall. Flowers bloom from April to June and are usually purplish-blue.



Photo by Cynthia Mitchell/CC BY-NC

Blueblossom

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus
Ceanothus Shrub that grows up to 6 meters tall. Clusters of tiny flowers in Spring, varying in shades of blue. Popular with birds, butterflies, and honeybees.



Photo by u_phantasticus/CC BY-NC

Blue Elder

Sambucus cerulea
Shrub that can grow to be 9 meters in height. It has a powder coating on its bluish-black berries. Has white flowers from May to June.



Photo by gerode/CC BY-NC

Fungus

Turkey Tail

Trametes versicolor
Concetric zones of different colors. Flesh is thick and leathery, can have algae growing on them. Commonly grows in tiled layers or groups on logs and stumps.



Photo by Matthew Salkiewicz/CC BY-NC

Hairy Curtain Coat

Stereum hirsutum
Fungus which forms multiple brackets on dead wood. It is a plant pathogen that infects peach trees. Also commonly called "false turkey tail."



Photo by Di/CC BY-NC

Sulphur Tuft

Hypholoma fasciculare
Smooth and sulphur yellow with orange-brown center. Usually found where other mushrooms are not around. Stalks are poisonous.



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Ganoderma brownii

Ganoderma brownii
Polypore that ranges from brown to gray. Parasitizes conifers and hardwoods. Pore surface is white but can turn brown with damage.



Photo by R.J. Adams/CC BY-NC

Fly Agaric

Amanita muscaria
Toadstool colored red with white spots. Several known variations with yellow or white caps.



Photo by Rachel/CC BY-NC

Cramp Balls

Annulohyphoxylon thouarsianum
Grows on the back of redwood trees. Fruiting body is dark brown or black with a rough texture due to perithecia.



Photo by Franco Folini/CC BY

Candlesnuff Fungus

Xylaria hypoxylon
Elongated branches with whitened tips. Grow up to 3 inches tall. Grows in clusters on decaying hardwood.



Photo by Rob Curtis/CC BY-NA-SA

Mulch Maids

Leratiomyces percevalli
Honey yellow mushroom with prefers wood chipped and grassy areas.



Photo by Damon Tighe/CC BY-NC

Redwood Rooter

Caulorhiza umbonate
Broad, chestnut colored mushrooms. Darker at the center than around the edge. Narrows towards the stipe.



Photo by Christian Schwartz/CC BY-NC

Chip Cherries

Leratiomyces ceres
Bright red to orange cap and dark purple spores. Grows on wood chips.



Photo by Tim Sage/CC BY-SA

Mollusks

Button's Banana Slug

Ariolimax buttoni
Yellow green to light yellow in color, sometimes have black spots and blotches on the back.



Photo by Lorri Gong/CC BY-NC

Reticulate Tailedropper

Prophysaon anderson
50 mm in length when active. Body is grayish or reddish brown with a pattern of diamond shapes. Yellow or orange mucus.



Photo by Ken-ichi Ueda/CC BY

California Lancetooth Snail

Haplotrema minimum
Carnivorous land snail. Yellow shell with white translucent body. Critically imperiled.



Photo by James Maughn/CC BY-NC

Milky Slug

Deroceras reticulatum
Small land slug, indistinguishable from other *Deroceras* slugs. Variable in color, commonly creamy or light coffee colored. Mucus is colorless.



Photo by Bruce Marlin/CC BY-SA

Amphibians

California Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps attenuates
Seeks cover near streams and moist locations. Eats mites, spiders, and snails.



Photo by Steve Law/CC BY-SA

Esatina

Esatina eschscholtzii
Reddish brown to pinkish brown. Eyes are very dark. 3-6 inches in total length. Found under logs or brush, by streams and in other moist places.



Photo by randomtruth/CC BY-NC-SA

Aboreal Salamander

Aneides lugubris
Plain purplish-brown coloring, spotted dorsally with gold or yellow. Nocturnal, spends day in cavities of oak trees.



Photo by Adam J. Searey/CC BY-NC

Sierran Tree Frog

Pseudacris sierra
Occur in shades of greens or browns and can change colors. Ground-dweller, lives in shrubs near water, but also climbs trees.



Photo by Natalie McNear/CC BY-NC

Cuban Tree Frog

Osteopilus septentrionalis
Mostly gray, brown, or green. Rough, warty skin with mottling. Mainly nocturnal. Eats plants and animals.



Photo by copepodo/CC BY-NC-ND

American Bullfrog

Lithobates catesbeinus
Olive-green color with grayish-brown banding. Inhabits large water bodies. Eat rodents, lizards, and snakes.



Photo by bubbacho/CC BY-NC

Mammals

California Vole

Microtus californicus
Not a mouse, but a medium sized vole. Covered in cinnamon to olive fur. Has darker hairs and grey feet and whiskers.



Photo by Kim Cabrera/CC BY-ND

Botta's Pocket Gopher

Thomomys bottae
Medium-sized gopher. Coloration is highly variable. Strictly herbivorous, feeding on shoots, grasses, and roots. Spends 90% of life inside its burrow.



Photo by Nathan Velasco/CC BY-NC-SA

Virginia Opposum

Didephis virginiana
Solitary and nocturnal animal about the size of a cat. Inhabit settled areas. Dull grayish-brown coats.



Photo by Greg Hanisek/CC BY-NC

Brush Rabbit

Sylvialagus bachmani
Small rabbit with short legs and short tail. Dark grey on the sides and back, and pale gray on the belly and underside of the tail. Feeds mainly on grasses and berries.



Photo by Don Loarie/CC BY

Coyote

Canis latrans
Color and texture vary geographically, mostly gray and red with black and white hair. Carnivorous but will feed on produce or grass. Hunt in pairs or groups.



Photo by Don McCullough/CC BY-NC

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes
Largest of foxes wotj silky and short guard hairs. Coat is bright red/rusty with yellowish tints. Omnivores that hunt in early morning. Forage alone.



Photo by Aleksandr Popov/CC BY-NC

Evening Bats

Family
Vespertilionidae
Carnivorous, eat flying insects, rely on echolocation to obtain food. Roost in caves or hollow trees, rocky crevices, animal burrows.



Photo by Ján Svetik/CC BY-NC-ND

Deer Mouse

Peromyscus maniculatus
Small with large eyes and ears. Fur varies in color from gray to brown with white belly and white feet. Nocturnal, spend day in trees or burrows.



Photo by kimmani/CC BY-NC

Bobcat

Lynx rufus
Coat is tan with black streaks on. Patterning acts as camouflage. Prefers woodlands, active during twilight. Feeds on larger animals and prefers mammals.



Photo by Mary Keim/CC BY-NC-SA

Broad-Footed Mole

Scapanus latimanus
Dark brown to silvery fur. Requires moist soil to eat earthworms, insects, plants, and other invertebrates. Lives below ground for most of its life.



Photo by bob-dodge/CC BY

Reptiles

Western Fence Lizard

Sceloporus occidentalis
5.7-8.9 cm in length.
Brown or black in color, and have black stripes on their backs and bright blue bellies.



Western Terrestrial Garter Snake

Thamnophis elegans
Medium-sized snake with yellow, orange, or white dorsal stripes. Very variable, hard to identify.



Southern Alligator Lizard

Elgaria multicarinata
8-18 cm in length.
Color is variable; can be brown, gray, green or yellow, with red and black crossbands and adjacent white spots.



Ring-necked snake

Diadophis punctatus
Olive, brown, or smoky color. Orange or red coloration on the underside with black spotting. Mostly nocturnal.



Northern Alligator Lizard

Elgaria coerulea
Medium sized lizard, with varying colors in brown, white, and greenish yellow. Often has dark blotches on the back.



Western Skink

Plestiodon skiltonianus
Small lizard with brown stripe down the back. Adolescents have blue tails which turn gray in adulthood.



Aquatic Garter Snake

Thamnophis atratus
18-40 in long. Many variations, such as pale gray, dark brown, or black. May have yellow stripes. Found in forests near water.



Gopher Snake

Pituophis catenifer
36-84 in long. Yellow with dark brown or black blotches and smaller spots on the side. Puffs up body and vibrates tail to look like a rattlesnake.



Fish

Western Mosquitofish

Gambusia affinis
Small fish with max length 2.8 in. Dull grey coloring with a large abdomen. Eats mosquito larvae.



Rainbow Trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss
Broad reddish stripe along the lateral line, from gills to the tail. Return to fresh water to spawn after living 2-3 years in the ocean.

