

# Common Native Plants of Los Altos Hills Creeks and Associated Wildlife

## **Big Leaf Maple** (*Acer macrophyllum*)

Birds eat insects in trunks and leaves. Trunks provide sap for sapsuckers. Woodpeckers nest in holes.

## **Buckeye** (*Aesculus californica*)

The nectar and leaves feed beneficial insects as well as butterflies.

## **California Sycamore** (*Platanus racemosa*)

A food plant for butterflies. Birds eat insects in the trunks and on foliage. Trunks provide sap for sapsuckers and nest hole sites for woodpeckers.

## **Live Oak** (*Quercus agrifolia*)    **Blue Oak** (*Quercus douglasii*)    **Valley Oak** (*Quercus lobata*)

Insectivorous birds eat insects that feed on foliage. Acorns feed jays, woodpeckers, nuthatches and squirrels. Acorn woodpeckers use mature oaks for granaries to store acorns.

## **Arroyo Willow** (*Salix lasiolepis*)    **Scouler's Willow** (*Salix scouleriana*)

Willows are food plants for the larvae of several species of butterfly. Larger birds such as jays eat adult butterflies, and warblers consume insects on willow leaves. Thickets shelter streamside birds.

## **California Bay** (*Umbellularia californica*)

Fruit-eating birds—American robin, cedar waxwings, band-tailed pigeon—favor the fruits.

## **Creek Dogwood** (*Cornus sericea*)    **Brown Dogwood** (*Cornus glabrata*)

Spring azure blue butterfly larvae eat dogwood leaves. Berries support fruit-eating birds.

## **California Rose** (*Rosa californica*)

Fruit-eating birds eat rose hips. Thickets provide shelter for all woodland birds.

## **California Blackberry** (*Rubus ursinus*)

The fruits are consumed by fruit-eating birds and animals, and the thickets provide shelter.

## **Blue Elderberry** (*Sambucus Mexicana*)

The flowers attract nectar-feeding insects. An amazing variety of birds favor the fruits.

## **Mallow** (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*)

A food plant for the Large White Skipper butterfly and birds that eat the seeds.

## **Osoberry** (*Oemleria cerasiformis*)

Hummingbirds and bees feed on nectar. Berries feed fruit eaters. Thickets give shelter.

## **Toyon** (*Heteromales arbutifolia*)

Robins, varied thrush, and cedar waxwing favor the berries. Deer browse on the foliage.

## **Coyote brush** (*Baccharis pilularis consanguinea*)

Seeds feed ground birds. Shrubs provide shelter and nest sites for chaparral-dwellers.

## **Snow Berry** (*Symphoricarpus albus*)

Berries attract frugivorous birds.

## **Holly Leaf Cherry** (*Prunus illicifolia*)

Foliage provides as food, nest sites and shelter for many species. Fruits feed frugivores.

## **Coast Silk Tassel** (*Garry elliptica*)

Provides fruit for birds and nectar for insects and hummingbirds.

## **Ocean Spray** (*Holodiscus discolor*)

Flower clusters attract insectivorous birds.

**Coffee Berry** (*Rhamnus californica*)

A food plant of the Pale Swallowtail. Birds eat the berries. Deer browse on the foliage.

**Redberry** (*Rhamnus crocea*)

Provides shelter and food for birds and mammals.

**Golden Current** (*Ribes aureum*)

Golden berries feed mockingbirds and other fruit-eating birds.

**Canyon Gooseberry** (*Ribes menziesii*)

Fruits are popular with birds.

**Grasses** (*Festuca californica*, *Nessella lepida*, *Melica torreyana*)

Grasses provide food and shelter for birds, mammals, caterpillars, and harvester ants.

**Rush** (*Juncus patens*)

Water-loving species find shelter among rushes.

**Mugwort** (*Artemisia douglasii*)

**Bee plant** (*Scrophularia californica*)

Popular nectar source for wasps, bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera hispidula*)

Flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds and berries attract frugivorous birds.

**Monkey Flower** (*Mimulus aurantiaca*)

A larval food plant of euphydras checkerspot butterfly.

**Yerba Buena** (*Satureja douglasii*)

**Soap Plant** (*Chloragalkum pomeridianum*)

Night blooming flowers attract nocturnal insects. Deer browse on the leaves.

**Pacific Sanicle** (*Sanicula crassicaulis*)

**Wild Strawberry** (*Fragaria chiloensis*)

Birds and small mammals eat fruits. Bees pollinate blossoms.

**Deerweed** (*Lotus scoparius*)

Food plant of common sulfur butterfly.

**Lace Parsnip** (*Lomatium dasycarpum*)

Larval food plant of anise swallowtail butterfly.

**Lupine** (*Lupinus succulentus*)

Some butterfly larvae eat foliage, as do golden-crowned sparrows before migration.

**Hound's Tongue** (*Cynoglossum*)

**Godetia** (*Clarkia rubicund*)

Several insects collect pollen.

**Ferns** (*Polystichum munitum*, *Dryopteris arguta*, *Pentagramma triangularis*, *Polypodium californicum*,  
*Atherium felix femina*)