

SECOND REVISED EDITION

THE CALIFORNIAN WILDLIFE REGION

By Vinson Brown and Dr. George Lawrence

MAJOR ILLUSTRATORS

Emily Reid—Plants Jerry Buzzell—Birds Robert Stebbins—Reptiles and Amphibians Lynn Maxwell—Mammals Rune Hapnes—Fishes

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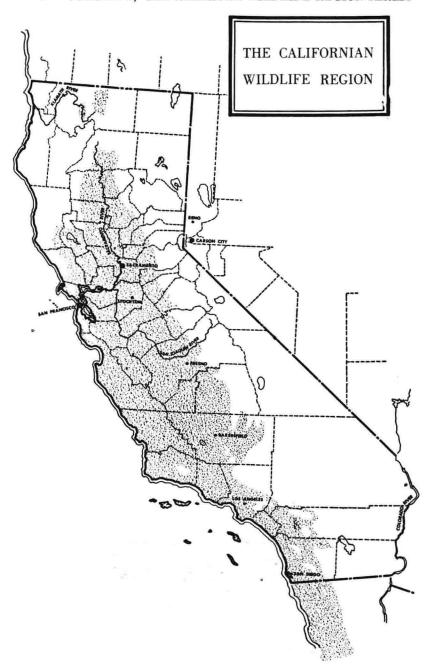
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ABOUT THE REGION

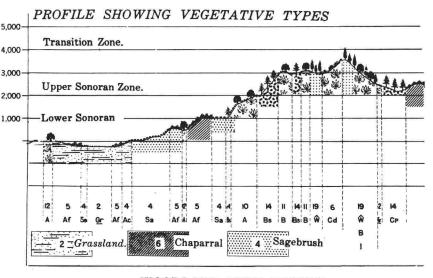
This book is the first of a series on the wildlife regions of America. Wildlife regions, such as the Californian Wildlife Region, are distinctive natural geographic areas of similar climate and topography, which tend to have certain typical animals and plants within their boundaries. There is, however, much overlapping between wildlife regions so that their boundaries should never be thought of as rigid lines.

The Californian Wildlife Region, as here explained, has the geographical area shown in the map at the beginning of this book, plus some small extensions northward into the valleys about Grants Pass and Medford in Oregon. The region covers most of lowland and foothill California except for the deserts and the northwest coast forest of redwoods and firs. The region is bordered on the northwest by the humid forest of the Northwest Coast Wildlife Region, on the east by the Sierra Nevadan Wildlife Region, on the southeast by the arid Mohave and Sonoran Deserts Wildlife Regions, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean and bay shores (the life of which will be taken up in a separate book).

The region has a mild climate, with the great majority of the year frost-free, and with a rainfall ranging from near 8 inches in its dry grasslands to as high as 40 inches or more in its oak wood lands. There are high summer temperatures inland (up to 115 degrees F.), but, on the coast, the influence of the ocean keeps a less extreme and milder temperature for most of the year.

Since the major part of the region's rainfall comes in the winter and early spring, and there are sometimes dry years with little rain, most of the plant and animal life has had to find ways to live through many months of dryness. Annual plants do this by drying up and dying in the summer, but spreading their seeds to be ready for the coming of the rains. Animals avoid the extreme dryness by either migrating to moister areas, such as the mountains, or going into a kind of summer sleep called aestivation.

In the southern San Joaquin Valley and neighboring inner Coast Ranges and valleys the dryness is so great that many desert animals and plants are found, so that there is an overlap here with the desert wildlife regions.

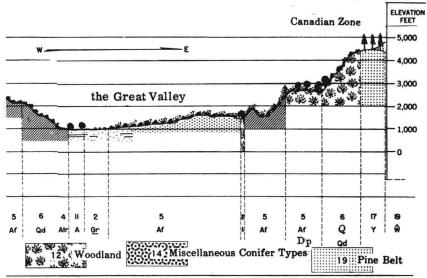


WOODLAND TREE SPECIES Quercus agrifolia Coast live wak

		Coust live bak
A	Alnus rhombifolia	White alder
Jc	Juniperus californica	California juniper
CP	Pinus coulteri	Coulter pine (Big-cone pine)
S	Platanus racemosa	California sycamore (Western sycamore)
F	Populus fremontii	Cottonwood (Fremont cottonwood)
Bs	Pseudotsuga macrocarpa	Bigcone spruce
C	Quercus chrysolepis	Canyon live oak (Maul oak, Cañon oak)
E	Quercus engelmannii	Evergreen white oak (Mesa oak)
В	Quercus kelloggii	California black oak
Sx	Salix spp.	Willows
Q	Quercus Douglasii	Blue oak

Vegetative Types by California Forest Experiment Station of the U. S. Forest Service

ŵ	Abies concolor	White fir
1	Libocedrus decurrens	Incense cedar
S	Pinus lambertiana	Sugar pine
	Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa pine (Yellow pine)
Y	Pinus jeffreyi (P. ponderosa	Part (2 time part)
	var. jeffreyi)	Jeffrey pine
Qc	Quercus chrysolepis var. nana	(Scrub canyon live oak)
Qd	Quercus dumosa	California scrub oak (Scrub oak)
Qw	Quercus wislizenii var.	
	frutescens	(Scrub interior live oak)
Rci	Rhamnus crocea var. ilicifolia	Hollyleaf buckthorn
RI	Rhus laurina	Laurel sumach (Laurel-sumac)
Ro	Rhus ovata	Sugar sumac (Sugar-bush,)
D_{p}	Digger pine	Pinus sabiniana



SHRUB SPECIES

	SHRU	JB SPECIES
Af	Adenostoma fasciculatum	Chamiso (Chamise)
As	Adenostoma sparsifolium	Redshanks (Ribbon wood, Yerba del pasmo)
Epi	Aplopappus pinifolius	The many transfer of the contract of the second of the sec
	(Ericameria pinifolia)	(Needleleaf heatherbush)
Ab	Arctostaphylos bicolor	(Brittleleaf manzanita)
Ag	Arctostaphylos glauca	Great manzanita (Bigberry manzanita
	Arctostaphylos tomentosa	Woolly manzanita
At	Arctostaphylos canescens	(Hoary manzanita)
	Arctostaphylos glandulosa	(Eastwood manzanita)
Ac	Artemisia californica	California sagebrush (Coast sagebrush)
Atr	Artemisia tridentata	Big sagebrush (Common sagebrush)
Cc	Ceanothus cuneatus	Wedgeleaf hornbrush (Buck-brush)
Cd	Ceanothus divaricatus	Whitebark soapbloom (Chaparral whitethorn)
Сь	Cercocarpus betuloides	Birchleaf mountain-mahogany (Hard tack)
Chr	Chrysothamnus spp.	Rabbitbrush
Pfr	Emplectocladus fremontii	
	(Prunus fremontii)	(Desert apricot)
Ecr	Eriodictyon crassifolium	(Woolly yerba-santa)
Ef	Eriogonum fasciculatum	(Wild buckwheat, Flat-top)
Eco	Eriophyllum confertiflorum	Goldenyarrow
Gv	Garrya veatchii	Veatch silktassel (Tasselbush)
Pa	Heteromeles arbutifolia	
	(Photinia arbutifolia,	
	P. salicifolia)	Christmasberry (Toyon)
-l_s	Lotus scoparius	(Deerweed trefoil, Deerweed)

White sage

Black sage

Sa

Sm

Gr

Salvia apiana

Grassland

Salvia mellifera

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book provides a simple, easy introduction to the common wild animals and plants of the Californian Wildlife Region. Its main purpose is to show you how to learn about the animals and plants in relation to where they like to live. The first step is to familiarize yourself with the map of the Californian Wildlife Region on page 2. Next, you should study the pictures of habitats or plant communities shown in the first part of this book. Use all these pictures and their descriptions to help you understand what wildlife areas are found in your neighborhood. Third, you need to study the lists of common wild plants and animals found in each. Fourth, you should examine carefully pages 20-21, which give you necessary help in identifying plants.

The fifth step is to familiarize yourself with the chapters on plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Notice that on the margin of the page by each description of a plant or animal there is a list, in small italics, of the principal habitats or wildlife areas in which the species of animal or plant is found. These names and the lists you find in the first part of the book under each habitat description are very important in helping you understand what to look for as you walk through the country.

The habitats, as listed, have been shortened into the following abbreviations for convenience in fitting the pages: Str. Wd. = Streamside Woodland, Oak = Oak Woodland, Chap. = Chaparral, Sav. = Savanna, Grass = Grassland, Rocks = Rocky Areas or Cliffs, Bldg. = in or on Buildings, Desert = Desert Areas, and Water = Fresh Water Areas.

Let us suppose that you are taking a hike and you come into a chaparral or brushland area, which you identify from the picture of chaparral on page 11 and the other one on page 14. You now study the list of chaparral plants on page 12, and look up their descriptions and pictures in the plant chapter. You will also find, as you are studying this chapter, that other species of plants besides those listed are shown by the italics in the margins to be growing, though less commonly, in the chaparral. By using the pictures and descriptions try identifying the plants you find. Remember only very common kinds are described in this book, but these include the great majority of the plants you meet. Use the same method for identifying animals found in each habitat area.

THE STREAMSIDE WOODLAND

THE STREAMSIDE WOODLAND



The shade, thick cover, great number of leaves and usual abundance of water found in the streamside woodland make this wild life area the most popular home or habitat of wild animals in the region. In northern California the trees usually growfairly close together with numerous under-shrubs, but in the drier areas of southern California, where the California sycamore and the cottonwoods are most numerous, the trees may be spaced in widely separated clumps. Because of the shade the temperature in the streamside woodland is likely to be lower than in neighboring grasslands or chaparral, so that many animals move down to this woodland during the heat of a summer day.

COMMON PLANTS

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THE OAK WOODLAND



The oak woodland is divided into three types, first, the Oregon or Northern Oak Woodland, with the Oregon Oak as the chief tree, the plants often close together and with a fairly dense undergrowth; second, the Foothill Woodland of central California, in which the Live Oak and the Blue Oak are the principal trees & the undergrowth is more open; and third, the Southern Oak Woodland, where the Mesa Oak and the Coast Live Oak are the main trees, and there is very little undergrowth, but chiefly grass.

In the south the oak woodlands are in sheltered valleys or the north-facing sides of canyons. In the north they are more on the hill-tops or in wide valleys. They form a good shelter for many animals and all the shade keeps their temperature lower than it

is in the surrounding grasslands or chaparral. The oak woodlands have the highest rainfall (15-40 inches) and the lowest average temperature (29-42 degrees F. in winter) of any wildlife area in the region. Coniferous forest animals often come here.

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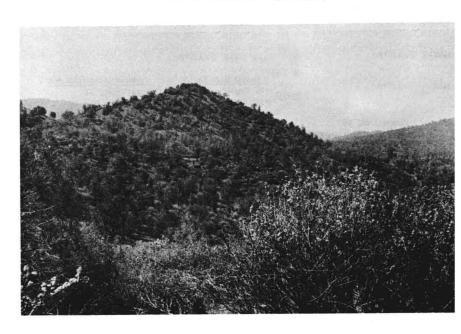
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THE CHAPARRAL



There are at least three distinct kinds of chaparral in California. The <u>true chaparral</u> is found in the higher hills and in the mountains. It is made up of stiff-branched, small-leaved shrubs from 3 to 10 feet high, that are adapted to the long, hot summer, and to about 14 to 25 inches of average rainfall per year.

Another kind of brushland is the Northern Coastal Scrub, found near the coast from Monterey Co. north, and with rather low shrubs (under 6 feet), some with large leaves, and often mixed with grass. There is much fog, wind and rain here, with 25 to 75 inches of average rainfall, and much lower average summer temperature. Properly-speaking this brushland belongs with the Northwest Coast Wildlife Region more than with the Californian.

Third is the Coastal Sage Scrub of the South Coast Ranges near the sea, where the plants are from 1 to 6 feet tall and are less dense than the true chaparral. The annual rainfall is 10 to 20 inches, but more fog makes the summer cooler than in true chaparral.

COMMON PLANTS

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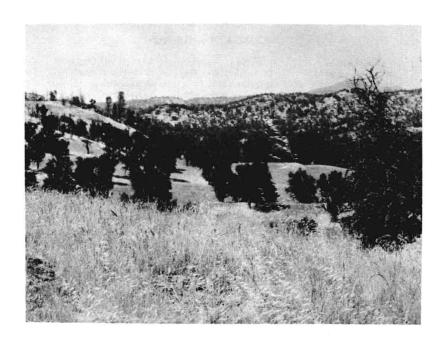
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THE SAVANNA



The savanna is a half-way country, half-way between oak woodland and grassland, and made up of plants from both areas. Because of this, only the dominant trees of the habitat are listed on the next page, while, for the more typical grassland species of the area, turn to the list of plants on page 16.

Some animals like the combination of the shelter of the oak trees and the good feeding in the open grass country nearby. A surprising number of birds, particularly the soaring hawks, prefer this habitat above all others. There is an extensive savanna belt rimming the Great Valley in the foothills of the mountains.