

A Vital Habitat at Water's Edge

There's a lot of life in a riparian woodland. What is a riparian woodland? It is the zone alongside a stream or lake where water-loving trees such as willow, cottonwood, maple, sycamore and aspen grow. Many other plants that like moisture and shade grow beneath and twine around the trees. In places that are relatively dry—including most of California—the greatest variety and number of animals live in these riparian woodlands.

What do you see around you?

Butterflies flitting around wildflowers? Birds hunting for their favorite food? A deer warily watching? You probably hear more creatures than you can see. The lush vegetation provides animals with perfect hiding places.

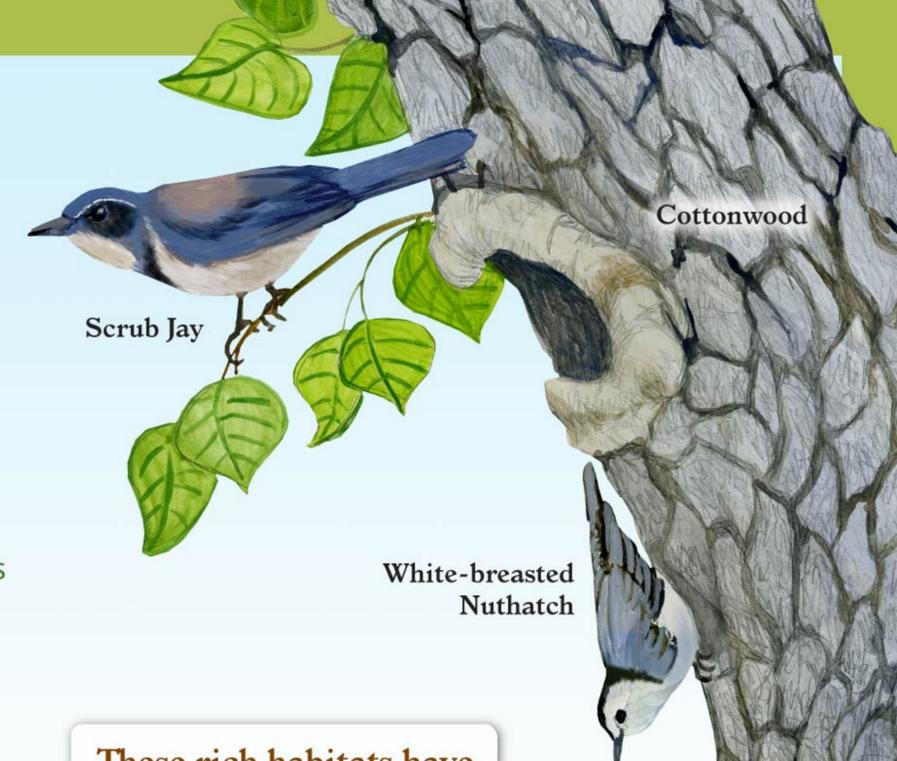
These rich habitats have become increasingly rare in California.

Water projects, agriculture, grazing and development have altered most of the state's riparian woodlands. Those that remain, like this one, need your protection.



Wild Grape

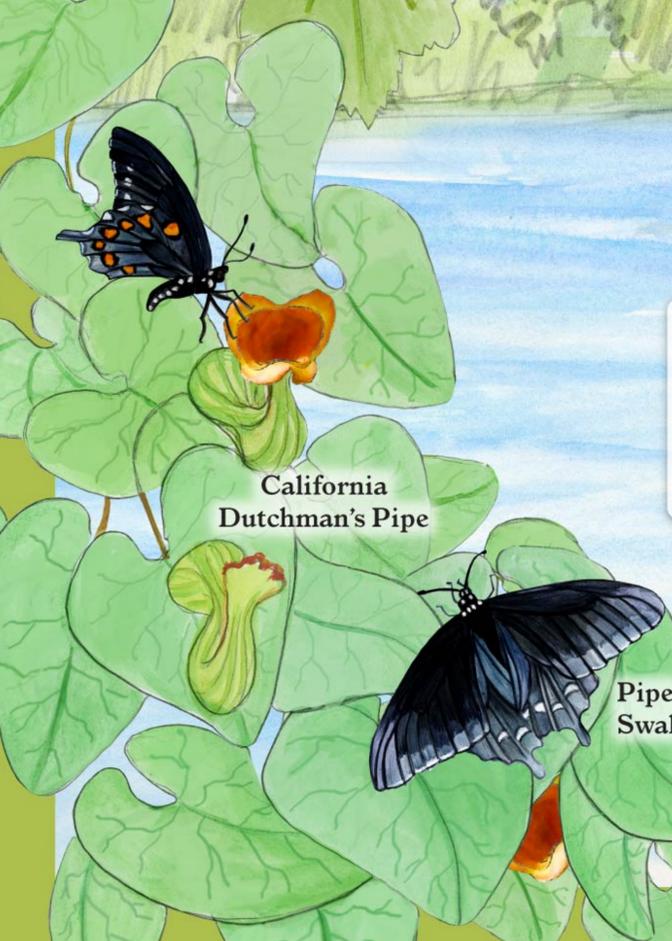
Cedar Waxwing



Scrub Jay

Cottonwood

White-breasted Nuthatch

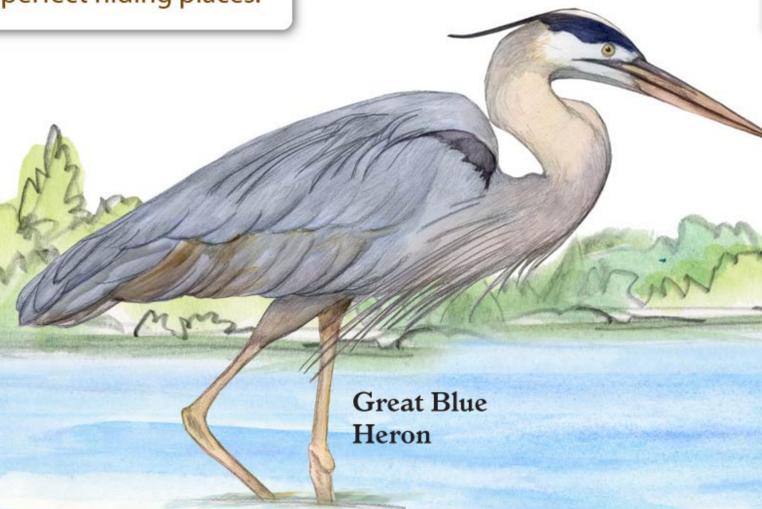


California Dutchman's Pipe

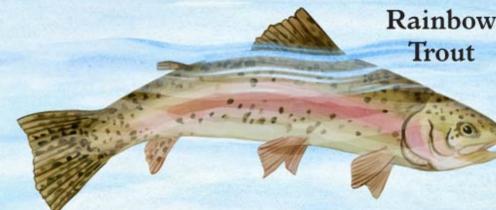
Pipevine Swallowtail



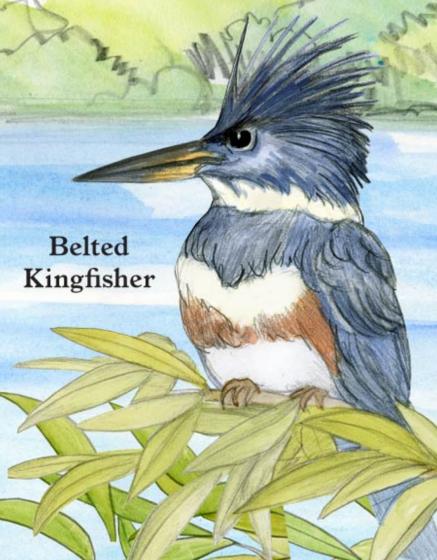
River Otter



Great Blue Heron



Rainbow Trout



Belted Kingfisher

Willow

Animals that spend time in the water appreciate the riparian woodland, too. Beavers, river otters and rainbow trout are some of the animals that need the abundant food, cool water and shelter that California's riparian woodlands provide.

Help Keep It Healthy.
Explore with a light step and sensitivity to the wildlife around you.

