

Late Summer Sampler

Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, 1530 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto

Fruiting native shrubs



California Wild Rose
Rosa californica

Fruit of the Wild Rose, known as the hip, is said to contain more vitamin C, calcium, phosphorus, and iron than oranges. Great plant for native gardens, especially for use in fencelines. At the Preserve, look for California Quail rustling at the base of this plant.



Blue Elderberry
Sambucus mexicana

Elderberry produces lovely, scented yellow flowers in the spring. The fruits were eaten fresh, dried, frozen, or canned by the Okanagan-Colville, Thompson, Sanpoil and Nespelm tribes. Stems were used to make flutes and whistles.



Snowberry
Symphoricarpos albus

Hummingbirds visit the small, pinkish flowers in summer. Berries are bitter and possible toxic, although, according to folk-medicine practices of the Stl'at'imx of British Columbia, snowberry settled rather than disturbed the stomach.

Seeding invasive weeds



Yellow Star Thistle
Centaurea solstitialis

Hikers and cyclists know this plant's fierce thorns and tendency to grow on dry trailsides. Experts estimate that it has taken over 25 million areas of CA grasslands.



Bull Thistle
Cirsium vulgare

Native to Europe; introduced to the eastern United States during colonial times and the western United States in the late 1800s. Currently found in all 50 states.



Poison Hemlock
Conium maculatum

Best known as the poison that killed Socrates, all parts of this plant are toxic to humans, wildlife, and to other plants. Prefers riparian areas and takes over quickly.

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Commonly Seen Birds



Red Tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis

Sexes look alike; female larger. It is frequently seen sitting on utility poles where it watches for rodents in the grass along the roadside. Different species from the smaller, noisier, red shouldered hawk. (from www.birds.cornell.edu)



White Tailed Kite
Elanus leucurus

(Name changed from Black Shouldered Kite). Populations decreased to very low numbers by early 1900s, but increased after 1940. Although some populations fluctuate regularly in size, it is unknown if the White-tailed Kite is migratory, nomadic, or both. (from www.birds.cornell.edu)



California Quail
Callipepla californica

Several California Quail broods may mix after hatching and are attended by all of the parents of those broods. Adults that engage in communal brooding live longer than adults that do not. The topknot looks like a single feather, but it is actually a cluster of six overlapping plumes. (from www.birds.cornell.edu)

Black Tailed Deer and Links



Pacific Black Tailed Deer
Odocoileus hemionus

The rut has begun! Does comes into estrus for only a few days. Males become aggressive in competing for mates. The gestation period is approximately 200 days, with fawns arriving in the spring; the young will remain with mothers throughout the summer and become weaned in the autumn.

The buck's antlers fall off in the winter-time and begin growing once more in spring for next autumn's rut. (partly from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black-tailed_deer)



Want to learn more?
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Check out the following links.

<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species>

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/index.php>

<http://www.cnps.org/>

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/cawildlife.aspx>

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