

Oak Woodland Wildlife Habitats

California's oak woodlands provide habitat for nearly half of the 632 terrestrial vertebrates species found in the state. Acorns are a key resource for deer, squirrels, turkeys, jays, quail and bear. Standing dead trees provide an important habitat resource for raptors, bats, salamanders, and lizards. Coarse woody tree material lying on the ground, particularly large logs, are a very important wildlife habitat element because they retain moisture in a relatively dry ecosystem. Oak woodlands near riparian resources like creeks, rivers or lakes support the greatest number of wildlife species.

Below are links to California Wildlife Habitat Relationships Program (CWHR) lists for over 300 amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles that "prefer or make great use of" various oak woodland habitat elements. CWHR is a California Department of Fish and Game wildlife impact assessment tool widely used by state and federal agencies to analyze wildlife habitat suitability.



[23 Amphibians](#)



[159 Birds](#)



[88 Mammals](#)



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Illustrations from *Investigating the Oak Community*,
a free download on the California Oaks website,
Current Issues page, at www.californiaoaks.org

23 Amphibian Species Associated With Oak Woodlands

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Arboreal salamander	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	
Black salamander	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	
Black-bellied slender salamander	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x
Bullfrog	x	x	x	x			x				x
California newt	x	x	x	x			x			x	x
California slender salamander	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
California treefrog	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
Ensatina	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Foothill yellow-legged frog	x	x	x	x			x			x	
Kern canyon slender salamander	x	x	x					x		x	
Limestone salamander	x	x					x			x	
Long-toed salamander	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
Northwestern salamander	x		x	x	x		x		x		x
Pacific giant salamander					x		x	x		x	
Pacific slender salamander	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Pacific treefrog	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Red-bellied newt	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Red-legged frog	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Rough-skinned newt	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Shasta salamander		x						x	x		
Tehachapi slender salamander	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
Tiger salamander	x		x	x			x	x		x	x
Western spadefoot	x		x	x			x			x	x

159 Bird Species Associated With Oak Woodlands

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Acorn woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Allen's hummingbird	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
American crow	x	x	x	x	x		x				
American goldfinch	x	x	x	x	x		x				
American kestrel	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
American peregrine falcon	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
American robin	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Anna's hummingbird	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Ash-throated flycatcher	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Bald eagle	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Bank swallow			x				x			x	x
Barn owl	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Band-tailed pigeon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Barn swallow	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Bewick's wren	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Black swift	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
Black-chinned hummingbird	x	x	x	x			x				
Black-crowned night heron	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Black-throated gray warbler	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Black-headed grosbeak	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Blue grouse					x		x	x			
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	x	x	x	x	x		x				

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Brewer's blackbird	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Brown creeper	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Brown-headed cowbird	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Bushtit	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Burrowing owl	x	x	x	x			x			x	
California condor	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	
California gnatcatcher				x			x				
California quail	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
California thrasher	x	x	x	x	x		x				
California towhee	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			
Calliope hummingbird	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Cassin's kingbird	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Cattle egret	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Cedar waxing	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Chestnut-back chickadee	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Chipping sparrow	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Cliff swallow	x	x	x	x			x			x	x
Common nighthawk	x	x	x	x			x				x
Common poorwill	x	x	x	x	x			x			
Common raven	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Cooper's hawk	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Cordilleran flycatcher					x		x			x	
Dark-eyed junco	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			
Downy woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Dusky flycatcher	x	x	x	x			x				
European starling	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Evening grosbeak	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Ferruginous hawk	x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x
Flammulated owl					x		x		x		
Fox sparrow	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Golden eagle	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Golden-crowned kinglet	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Golden-crowned sparrow	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			
Great blue heron	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Great egret	x	x	x	x			x				x
Great horned owl	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Greater roadrunner	x	x	x	x			x				
Green heron	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Green-tailed towhee					x		x				
Hairy woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Hammond's flycatcher	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Hermit thrush	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Hermit warbler	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Horned lark	x	x	x	x							
House finch	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
House sparrow	x	x	x	x			x		x		
House wren	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		
Hutton's vireo	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Lark sparrow	x	x	x	x	x		x				

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Lawrence's goldfinch	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Lazuli bunting	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Lesser goldfinch	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Lesser nighthawk	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Lewis' woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Lincoln's sparrow	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Loggerhead shrike	x	x	x	x	x						
Long-eared owl	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
MacGillivray's warbler					x		x				
Mallard	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Merlin	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Mountain bluebird	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	
Mountain chickadee	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Mountain quail	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		
Mourning dove	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Nashville warbler	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Northern flicker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Northern goshawk	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Northern harrier	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Northern mockingbird	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Northern oriole	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Northern pygmy owl	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Northern rough-winged swallow	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Northern saw-whet owl	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Nuttall's woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Olive-sided flycatcher					x		x		x		
Orang-crowned warbler	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Osprey	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Pacific-slope flycatcher	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
Phainopepla	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Pileated woodpecker		x			x		x	x	x		
Pine siskin	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Plain titmouse	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Prairie falcon	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Purple finch					x		x				
Purple martin	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Red-shouldered hawk	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Red-breasted nuthatch	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Red-breasted sapsucker	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Red-naped sapsucker				x	x		x		x		
Red-tailed hawk	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Rock dove	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	
Rock wren	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
Rough-legged hawk	x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x
Ruby-crowned kinglet	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Ruffed grouse					x		x	x			
Rufous hummingbird	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Rufous-sided towhee	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Savanna sparrow	x	x	x	x			x				

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Say's phoebe	x	x	x	x						x	x
Scott's oriole	x		x	x							
Sharp-shinned hawk	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Short-eared owl	x	x	x	x			x				x
Solitary vireo	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Song sparrow	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x
Spotted owl		x			x		x		x		
Steller's jay	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Swainson's hawk	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Swainson's thrush	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Townsend's solitaire		x			x		x	x		x	
Townsend's warbler	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Tree swallow	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Turkey vulture	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	
Varied thrush	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Vaux's swift	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Vesper sparrow	x	x	x	x							
Violet-green swallow	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Warbling vireo	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Western bluebird	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Western kingbird	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Western meadowlark	x	x	x	x	x			x			
Western screech-owl	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Western scrub-jay	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Western tanager	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Western wood-peewee	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Whip-poor-will					x		x				

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
White-breasted nuthatch	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
White-crowned sparrow	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			
White-throated swift	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
White-headed woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
White-tailed kite	x	x	x	x			x		x		x
Wild turkey	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Wilson's warbler	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Wood duck	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x
Wrentit	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Yellow warbler	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Yellow-rumped warbler	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Yellow-billed magpie	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				

88 Mammal Species Associated With Oak Woodlands

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Allen's chipmunk	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
American badger	x		x	x	x					x	x
Barbary sheep	x	x	x	x	x					x	
Beaver	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Big brown bat	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Black bear		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black rat	x	x	x	x			x			x	
Black-tailed hare	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Bobcat	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Botta's pocket gopher	x	x	x	x	x					x	
Brazilian free-tailed bat	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Broad-footed mole	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Brush mouse	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Brush rabbit	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Bushy-tailed woodrat					x	x				x	
California chipmunk				x		x		x		x	
California ground squirrel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
California kangaroo rat	x	x	x	x	x					x	
California mouse	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
California myotis	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
California pocket mouse	x	x	x	x	x					x	
California vole	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Coyote	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Deer mouse	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Desert cottontail	x	x	x	x		x	x				
Desert woodrat		x			x	x		x		x	
Douglas' squirrel					x	x	x	x	x	x	
Dusky-footed woodrat	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Elk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Ermine					x		x	x	x	x	
Fallow deer	x	x	x	x				x			x
Feral goat	x	x	x	x				x			x
Fox squirrel	x		x	x		x	x		x		
Fringed myotis	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Golden-mantled ground squirrel					x		x	x		x	
Gray fox	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Heermann's kangaroo rat	x	x	x	x			x			x	
Himalayan tahr	x		x	x	x					x	
Hoary bat	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
House mouse	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x
Island fox	x		x	x		x		x		x	
Kit fox	x	x	x	x			x			x	
Little brown myotis	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Little pocket mouse			x	x						x	
Long-eared myotis	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Long-legged myotis	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Long-tailed weasel	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Marsh shrew				x			x	x			x
Merriam's chipmunk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Mountain beaver					x		x			x	
Mountain lion	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Mule deer	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Narrow-faced kangaroo rat	x	x	x	x						x	
Northern flying squirrel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Norway rat	x	x	x	x			x			x	
Ornate shrew	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x
Pacific kangaroo rat	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
Pallid bat	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Pinyon mouse					x	x	x	x	x	x	
Porcupine	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Raccoon	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Ringtail	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
River otter	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Sambar	x		x	x	x						
San Joaquin kangaroo rat	x		x							x	
San Joaquin pocket mouse	x		x	x						x	
Shrew-mole					x		x	x			x
Silver-haired bat	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Siskiyou chipmunk					x		x			x	x
Sonoma chipmunk	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Southern yellow bat				x			x				

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Spotted bat	x	x	x	x			x			x	x
Striped skunk	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Townsend's big-eared bat	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Trowbridge's shrew	x	x	x	x			x	x			
Vagrant shrew	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x
Virginia opossum	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Western gray squirrel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Western harvest mouse	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Western mastiff bat	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Western pipistrelle	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Western pocket gopher					x		x			x	
Western red bat	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Western small-footed myotis	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Western spotted skunk	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Wild horse	x	x	x	x	x		x				x
Wild pig	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Yellow-pine chipmunk					x		x	x	x	x	
Yuma myotis	x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x

41 Reptile Species Associated With Oak Woodlands

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard	x	x		x			x			x	
California legless lizard	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
California mountain kingsnake	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
California whipsnake	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
Coachwhip	x	x	x	x			x			x	
Coast horned lizard	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
Common garter snake	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Common kingsnake	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Desert night lizard	x	x	x								
Desert spiny lizard		x					x			x	
Giant garter snake			x				x			x	x
Gilbert's skink	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Glossy snake	x		x	x						x	x
Gopher snake	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Granite night lizard				x						x	
Granite spiny lizard				x						x	
Long-nosed snake	x	x	x	x			x			x	
Lyre snake	x		x	x			x			x	
Night snake	x	x	x	x				x		x	
Northern alligator lizard	x		x	x	x		x	x		x	
Orange-throated whiptail				x							
Racer	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Red diamond rattlesnake				x			x			x	

Common Name	Hardwood Habitat					Acorns	Habitat Elements				
	Blue Oak	Blue Oak-Pine	Valley Oak	Coastal Oak	Montane Hardwood		Riparian habitat	Logs, slash, brush piles	Snags	Burrows, rocks, caves, cliffs	Wetlands
Ringneck snake	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Rubber boa					x		x	x		x	
Sagebrush lizard					x			x		x	
Sharp-tailed snake	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Side-blotched lizard	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
Small-scaled lizard					x		x			x	
Southern alligator lizard	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
Speckled rattlesnake	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	
Western aquatic garter snake	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Western black-headed snake	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
Western blind snake	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	
Western fence lizard	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Western patch-nosed snake	x	x	x	x			x				
Western pond turtle	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x
Western rattlesnake	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Western skink	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	
Western terrestrial garter snake	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Western whiptail	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	