California Naturalist Reference Book List

(Resources compiled in 2014 by Leah Gardner, Sagehen Field Station California Naturalist and professional botanist and restoration ecologist)

Interpretive Skills, Nature Sketching, Journaling, etc.


General Ecology


**California Natural History**


A Natural History of California (California Natural History Guides), Allan A. Schoenherr, 1995.


**Wildlife**

California Wildlife (Foghorn Outdoors), Tom Stienstra, 2000.


Field Guide to Animal Tracks and Scat of California (California Natural History Guides) Mark Elbroch, Michael Raymond Kresky, and Jonah Wy Evans, 2012.


California Insects (California Natural History Guides), Jerry A. Powell and Charles L. Hogue, 1980.


Introduction to California Birdlife (California Natural History Guides), Jules Evens, 2005.


Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of California (California Natural History Guides), Samuel M. McGinnis, 2006.

**Plants, Botany**


*Introduction to California Spring Wildflowers of the Foothills, Valleys, and Coast* (California Natural History Guides), Philip A. Munz, 2004.

*Introduction to Shore Wildflowers of California, Oregon, and Washington* (California Natural History Guides), by Philip A. Munz and Bruce M. Pavlik (authors), Dianne Lake and Phyllis M. Faber (editors), 2003.

*Introduction to California Chaparral* (California Natural History Guides), Ronald D. Quinn, and Sterling C. Keeley, 2006.

**Trees and Forests**

*California Forests and Woodlands: A Natural History* (California Natural History Guides), Verna R. Johnston, 1996.

*Trees and Shrubs of California* (California Natural History Guides), John D. Stuart and John O. Sawyer, 2001.


Introduction to Fire in California (California Natural History Guides), David Carle, 2008.

Native Peoples, Ethnobotany, Edible and Medicinal Plants


The Natural World of the California Indians (California Natural History Guides), Robert Fleming Heizer, 1981.


Early Uses of California Plants (California Natural History Guides), Edward K. Balls, 1962.


Edible and Useful Plants of California (California Natural History Guides), Charlotte Bringle Clarke, 1978.


A Field Guide to Western Medicinal Plants and Herbs (Peterson Field Guides), Christopher Hobbs, 2002.

Medicinal Plants of the Pacific West, Michael Moore, 2011.


Geology and Soils

Reading the Earth, Landforms in the Making, Jerome Wyckoff, 1999.
*California Geology*, Deborah Harden, 2003.


*Introduction to Earth, Soil, and Land in California* (California Natural History Guides), David Carle, 2010.

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**Water, Rivers, Wetlands, and Coast**


*Introduction to California’s Beaches and Coast* (California Natural History Guides), Gary Griggs, 2010.

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**Regional Guides:**

**Sierra Nevada**


*Sierra Nevada Natural History* (California Natural History Guides), Tracy I. Storer, Robert L. Usinger, and David Lukas, 2004.

Geology of the Sierra Nevada, (California Natural History Guide), Mary Hill, 2006.


Sierra Nevada Wildflowers, Elizabeth L. Horn, 1998.


California Deserts


The Mojave Desert: Ecosystem Processes and Sustainability, Robert Webb, Lynn Fenstemaker, Jill Heaton and Debra Hughson (editors), 2009.

A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert, Steven J. Phillips and Patricia Wentworth Comus (editors), 2000.

Introduction to California Desert Wildflowers (California Natural History Guides), Philip A. Munz, 2004.


The Jepson Desert Manual: Vascular Plants of Southeastern California, Bruce G. Baldwin, Steve Boyd, Barbara Ertter, Robert Patterson, Thomas J. Rosatti, Dieter H. Wilken (Editors), and Margriet Wetherwax (Contributor), 2002.

San Francisco Bay Area

Natural History of San Francisco Bay (California Natural History Guides), Ariel Rubissow Okamoto and Kathleen M. Wong, 2011.


Southern California


*Introduction to the Plant Life of Southern California: Coast to Foothills* (California Natural History Guides) Philip W. Rundel, 2005.

Northern California


Environmental Classics


*The Diversity of Life*, E. O. Wilson, 2010.