

Arroyo Willow

(Salix lasiolepis)



Arroyo willow, found throughout California, was used by Native Americans for basket weaving, thatching, fishing poles and firewood. Chewing the bark provided a remedy for a toothache. Boiling the bark made tea and “aspirin” which relieved pain and fever. The seeds of the arroyo willow are tiny with cottony hairs called pussy willows.

The black-crowned night heron commonly rests in these trees during the day and spends the night foraging on aquatic invertebrates, fish, and amphibians. Arroyo willows are a riparian woodland regular, thriving along the edges of moist streams.

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