

Ribbon Gum

(Eucalyptus viminalis)

The Ribbon Gum Eucalyptus was introduced to California from Australia. A straight, erect tree with rough bark on the trunk and base of larger branches, it often reaches 120 feet tall. Upper bark peels away in long "ribbons" which can collect on the branches and ground. The largest recorded ribbon gum diameter-10.6 feet-is in Woodbourne, Marlborough, New Zealand.

This particular tree has become a rookery for Great Blue Herons. Look up and you will see as many as 11 nests. Beginning in mid-winter, the herons return every year to nest in this tree. Males gather sticks from the ground and nearby trees and deliver to waiting females who weave them into large and elaborate nesting platforms.

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