



Welcome to Bats, Trees and
Other Wildlife in Saratoga.
This activity is produced by
the Saratoga Historical
Foundation located at 20450
Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in
Saratoga.

Find us at
www.saratogahistory.com



Bats, Trees and Other Local Saratoga Wildlife

Take a walk around the
Museum and up Oak Street.

How many of these local
trees and animals can you
find?



SQUIRRELS

We have two common squirrels in Saratoga: The Eastern Gray squirrel has a white belly. The Eastern Fox squirrel has an orange belly.

They both like acorns.

Can you find both kinds on your walk?



common raven

American crow

CROWS AND RAVENS

These are both smart scavenger birds. Ravens are larger and less common. You can tell the difference by looking at their tails as they fly. Crows have a “fan shaped” tail. Ravens have a “diamond or wedge shaped” tail. Crows are often in groups. Ravens are alone or with one partner.



REDWOOD TREE

Redwoods were the basis of the lumber industry that created our town of Saratoga. Lumber wagons came down the mountain with big loads of cut redwood trees. When they came to the bottom of the hill, the drivers stopped to rest the horses and perhaps have a meal. That was the beginning of our town.

How many redwood trees can you find today around the Museum and up Oak Street? Notice that redwood trees have reddish bark!



OAK TREE

Acorns from the oak trees were very important for wildlife and the native Ohlone Indian people who lived in this area. Acorns were eaten by both humans and wildlife.

Can you name a bird and a small mammal that still stores and eats acorns today? Both live in Saratoga.



BATS

There used to be bats in the belfry of the Federated Church, and people would set up chairs nearby at sunset to watch the bats leave in the evening to hunt for insects. Now there are fewer insects in the Saratoga area, and the bat population has declined. The church remodeled the belfry and now bats can't live there. If you are VERY lucky, you might still see a few fly out from under the bridge at Brookwood Lane at twilight. Bats help us by eating mosquitoes and other flying insects.



ACORN WOODPECKER

This noisy bird is usually found near Oak trees. They drill into wood siding on houses and into tree trunks to stash their acorns. Some acorn woodpeckers have drilled holes in the Museum building.

Can you find the holes they made?

These woodpeckers have bright black and white faces. There is a shingle-sided home on Oak Street that had to put up wire mesh to keep the woodpeckers off. Can you find it? Of course it is near a very big oak tree!



Come back again

If you enjoyed this activity check our website again.

There are many things to see and do at the Historical Park. Go up to www.saratogahistory.com and find out!