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2006

Sequoia,
Kings Canyon,
and
Local California



GENERAL SHERMAN

General Sherman Tree - This tree is the largest living thing on earth (by volume). It's circumference at the ground is over 100 feet, it stands nearly 275 feet tall, and is estimated to be 2300-2700 years old. (9/8/2005, Sequoia National Park)



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Pacific Tree Frog

The Pacific Tree Frog is the most commonly heard frog on the west coast. In fact, the "ribbit" that Hollywood uses in all of its films as the "standard" frog call is actually the call of the Pacific Treefrog. Being a tree frog, it has sticky toe pads, allowing it to climb up vertical surfaces including trees, walls, and even glass. (7/6/2005, Shingle Springs)

January 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
New Year's Day 1	 2	 3	 4	 5	 6	 7
 8	 9	 10	 11	 12	 13	 14
 15	Martin Luther King Day 16	 17	 18	 19	 20	 21
 22	 23	 24	 25	 26	 27	 28
 29	 30	 31				

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Great Egret

The Great Egret is the largest Egret in California. It's larger size, yellow bill, and black feet help distinguish it from the smaller Snowy Egret (which has a black bill and yellow feet). Egrets are excellent fishermen who stand motionless in the water waiting for fish, although snakes, frogs, or some insects may be added to their diet.
 (10/8/2005, Shingle Springs)

February 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Groundhog Day		
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	President's Day					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



Acmon Blue Butterfly

The Acmon Blue butterfly is one of many similar-looking bluish butterflies in the Blues subfamily (Subfamily Polyommatainae) of the Gossamer-wing Butterflies (Family Lycaenidae). It is a small butterfly with a 3/4 to 1 1/8" wingspan. Its range is primarily California west of the Sierra Nevada, and its flight range covers the sunny months of March-October. (10/29/2005, Shingle Springs)

March 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	Saint Patrick's Day	18
19	Spring (10:26am PST)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Horses in Field

Horses are a common sight in the foothills of California. These girls have been around horses their whole life, so they have no problem exercising them by riding bareback. (7/2/2005, Shingle Springs)

April 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Daylight Savings Starts (+1 hour)						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter Day	Tax Day					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23						
30	24	25	26	27	28	29



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Praying Mantis

There are about 2,000 species of Praying Mantis. They are carnivorous insects, and come in both green and brown varieties to blend in with their background. The largest varieties can be as much as 12" in length, although the common ones in California are in the 2-4" range. They primarily eat other insects, but occasionally eat small vertebrates such as frogs, lizards, mice, and hummingbirds. They are not easily intimidated, which makes photographing them much easier than insects that fly away when they get a camera shoved in their face. (Green mantis 8/27/2005, brown mantis 12/10/2005, both in Shingle Springs.)

May 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mother's Day 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	Memorial Day 29	30	31			



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Sunset near Sequoia Lake Overlook

A sister to Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park was created in 1940. Many people don't realize that the nation's official Christmas tree is a living tree: The General Grant Tree here in Kings Canyon National Park (not pictured in this photo). (9/4/2005, near Sequoia Lake Overlook on the Dead Giant Loop Trail, Kings Canyon NP)

June 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	Flag Day 14	15	16	17
Father's Day 18	19	20	Summer (5:26am PDT) 21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Canada Geese

Canada Geese are a common site in California around lakes and ponds. Although not always popular in urban areas, where their droppings, noise, and quantity may be viewed as a problem, in the wild Canada Geese are quite majestic creatures. They are well known for thier V-shaped flight patterns when they fly in flocks, and their wing span can exceed 6 feet. (10/29/2005, Shingle Springs)

July 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	Independence Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24				
29	30	31	25	26	27	28



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Dragonfly

Their are many species of dragonfly, and they serve an important part of our ecosystem. Their eggs are laid in the water, and they spend most of their lives as a nymphs living in the water. One of the things they eat as nymphs are mosquito larvae, and thus they play an important part in mosquito control. They spend only a small portion of their life as the flying insects that we see and can admire for their beauty. (7/16/2005, Shingle Springs)

August 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

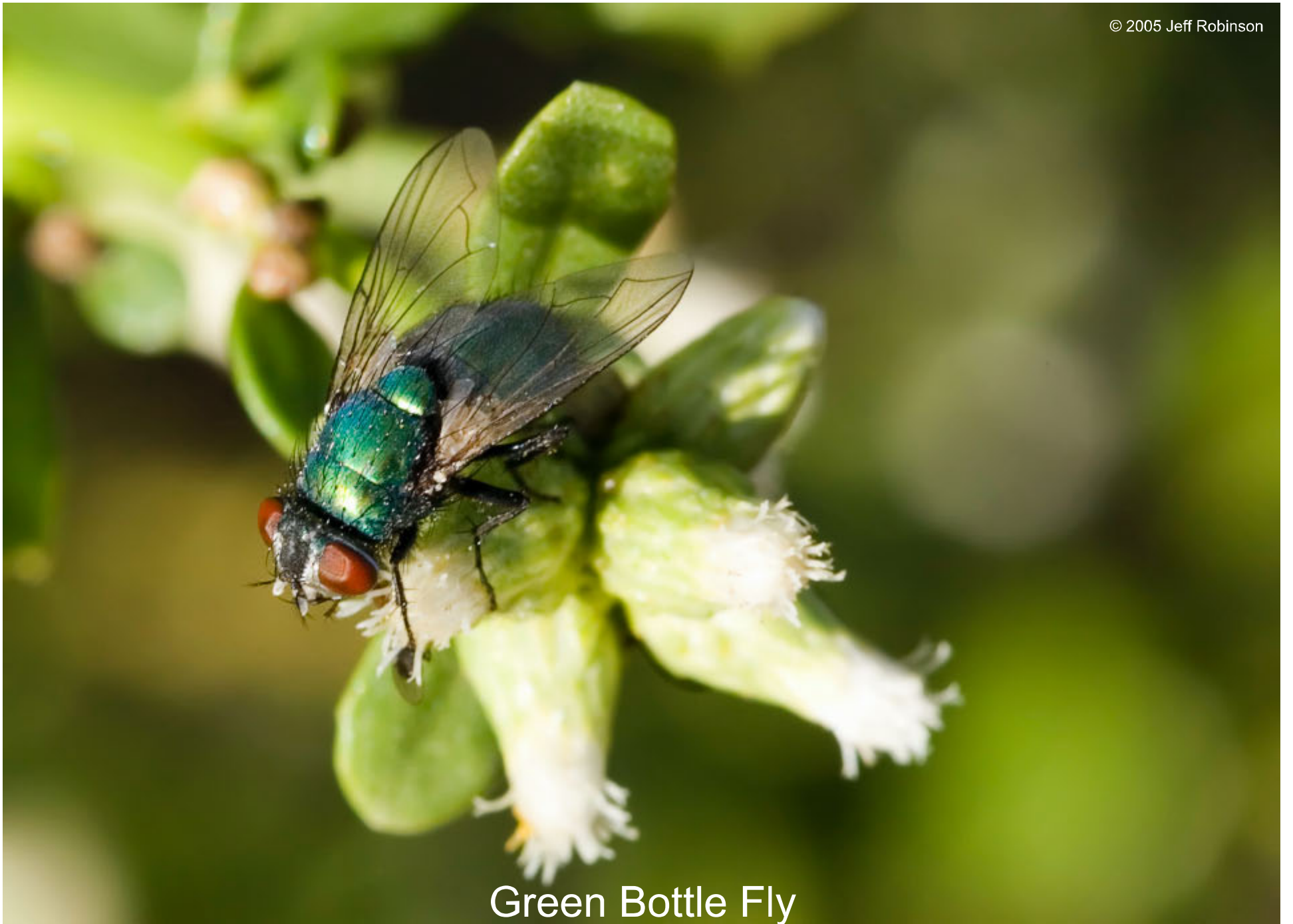


Male Adult Western Lesser Goldfinch

The Lesser Goldfinch is found in most areas of the country that have trees and shrubs, and is seen at feeders. It feeds mostly on tree buds and weed seeds. The bright-yellow on the underside of the male makes them quite easy to see.
 (10/29/2005, Shingle Springs)

September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	Labor Day 4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	Fall (9:03 pm PDT) 22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Green Bottle Fly

While flies are often annoying, they are often quite beautiful if you get a chance to take a close look at them. This Green Bottle Fly really shines in the sunlight. (10/29/2005, Shingle Springs)

October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Daylight Savings Ends (-1 hour)	30	Halloween	31			
29						



Sunset from Moro Rock

If there is one thing smog is useful for, it is useful for creating gorgeous sunsets. There was both smog and forest-fire smoke in the air, making it a very hazy view by day. But by night, the lights of the San Joaquin Valley shine through the haze. (9/7/2005, Moro Rock, Sequoia National Park)

November 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
		Election Day				Veteran's Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Thanksgiving Day		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



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Red-tailed Hawk

The Red-tailed hawk is a familiar sight to anyone who spends time around open space, as it is the most commonly seen hawk. With a wingspan of about 4 feet, a backlit soaring adult is easily identified by its brilliant red tail, but the juveniles have much more pale markings. In addition to soaring, they can often be seen perched on light posts and fence posts along the sides of roads and highways. (11/14/2005, Shingle Springs)

December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day			Winter (4:22pm PST)		
New Year's Eve 31		25	26	27	28	29
						30

