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wetlands are sometimes dry lands

Why are so many wetland plants and animals rare or endangered? Because of habitat destruction, California has lost 90% of its wetlands to development.



A wetland is land that is periodically flooded by tides, rainfall, or rising rivers, creating estuaries, marshes and bogs. Many wetlands are permanent, but others are dry for at least part of the year.

What kinds of adaptations do plants have for living in wetlands? In many cases, the water table is at or near the surface and supports many *hydrophytic* (water-adapted) plants. Wetland habitats sometimes have waterlogged, oxygen-poor soils, so many plants have special air-filled tissues to take air to the roots. Others have tough stems and roots which protect them against seasonal flooding.



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Wetlands are also important resting and feeding areas for migratory birds.

