

Birds of the North Hills



Oakland, California
2007

About this Booklet

The booklet grew out of a suggestion from Anne Seasons, President of the North Hills Phoenix Association, that I compile pictures of local birds in a form that could be made available to residents of the north hills. I expanded on that idea to include other local wildlife, shown in separate files.

The “North Hills” is defined as that area on the Berkeley/Oakland border bounded by Claremont Avenue on the north, Tunnel Road on the south, Grizzly Peak Blvd. on the east, and Domingo Avenue on the west.

The species shown here are observed, heard or tracked *with some regularity* in this area. The lists are not intended to be a complete record of species found: more than 50 additional bird species have been observed here.

A few of the species listed fall into the category of pests; but most - whether resident or visitor - are desirable additions to the neighborhood. We hope you will enjoy using this booklet to identify the wildlife you see around you.

Kay Loughman
October 2005



Contents

Birds

Turkey Vulture	Bewick's Wren
Red-tailed Hawk	Wrentit
American Kestrel	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
California Quail	American Robin
Mourning Dove	Hermit thrush
Rock Pigeon	Northern Mockingbird
Band-tailed Pigeon	Orange-crowned Warbler
Great Horned Owl	Yellow-rumped Warbler
White-throated Swift	Townsend's Warbler
Anna's Hummingbird	Wilson's Warbler
Allen's Hummingbird	Black-headed Grosbeak
Rufous Hummingbird	Spotted Towhee
Nuttall's Woodpecker	California Towhee
Northern Flicker	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Hutton's Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Steller's Jay	Fox Sparrow
Western Scrub Jay	Song Sparrow
Common Raven	Dark-eyed Junco
Violet-green Swallow	Purple Finch
Barn Swallow	House Finch
Oak Titmouse	Pine Siskin
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Lesser Goldfinch
Bushtit	American Goldfinch
Red-breasted Nuthatch	

Bird species seen or heard in the north hills:

Kay's complete list is in the back

Acknowledgements

Most of the drawings here first appeared in older field identification guides. A few were found on the World Wide Web. Artists include among others:

John James Audubon
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F. Schuyler Mathews
John L. Ridgeway
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NOTE ON MEASUREMENTS

Birds: Tip of beak to end of tail



Turkey Vulture

Cathartus aura

26"

Year-round



Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

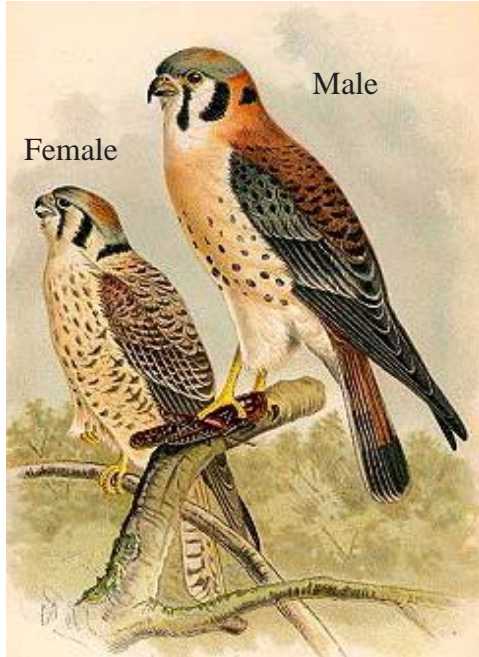
19"

Year-round

Plumage variable; red tail acquired
in spring of second year.



American Kestrel
Falco sparverius
9"
Year-round



California Quail
Callipepla californica
10"
Year-round

Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura
12"
Year-round



Rock Pigeon
Columba livia
12.5"
Year-round



Band-tailed Pigeon
Columba fasciata
14.5"
Year-round



Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

22"

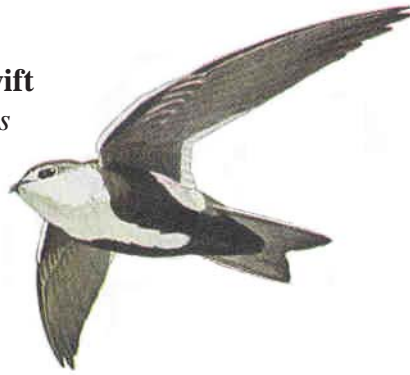
Year-round

White-throated Swift

Aeronautes saxatalis

6.5"

Year-round

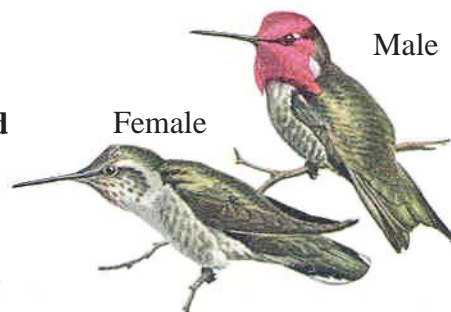


Anna's Hummingbird

Calypte anna

4"

Year-round



Male

Female



Rufous Hummingbird

Selasphorus rufus

3.75"

March - April, August - September

Allen's Hummingbird

Selasphorus sasin

3.75"

March - July



Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird

Female

Rufous Hummingbird

Male

Anna's Hummingbird

Male

Allen's Hummingbird

Male

Nuttall's Woodpecker

Picoides nuttallii

7.5"

Year-round



Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

12.5"

Year-round

Hutton's Vireo

Vireo huttoni

5"

Year-round. Similar to Ruby-crowned Kinglet.





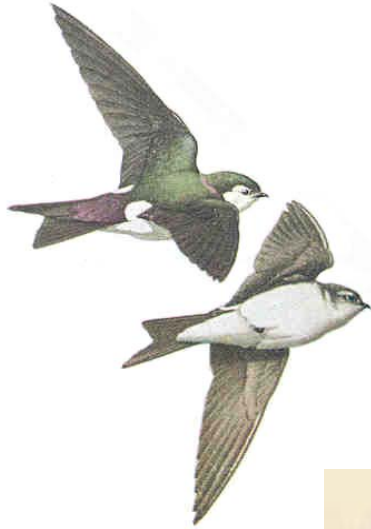
Steller's Jay
Cyanocitta stelleri
11.5"
Year-round



Western Scrub Jay
Aphelocoma californica
11.5"
Year-round



Common Raven
Corvus corax
24"
Year-round



Violet-green Swallow
Tachycineta thalassina
5.25"
April - July

Barn Swallow
Hirundo rustica
6.75"
April - July



Oak Titmouse
Baeolophus inornatus
5.75"
Year-round



Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Poecile rufescens

4.75"

Year-round

Bushtit

Psaltriparus minimus

4.5"

Year-round. Often seen in flocks of seven or more.



Red-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta canadensis

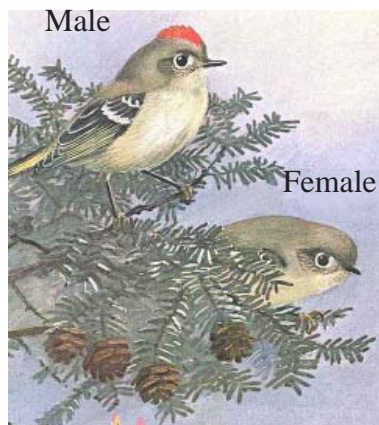
4.5"

Year-round



Bewick's Wren
Thryomanes bewickii
5.25"
Year-round

Wrentit
Chamaea fasciata
6.5"
Year-round



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula
4.25"
October - March

Similar to Hutton's Vireo.
Red crown seen infrequently

American Robin
Turdus migratorius
10"
Year-round



Hermit Thrush
Catharus guttatus
6.75"
October - April

Northern Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottos
10"
Year-round





Orange-crowned Warbler

Vermivora celata

5"

April - September

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Dendroica coronata

5.5"

October - April

Plumage variable



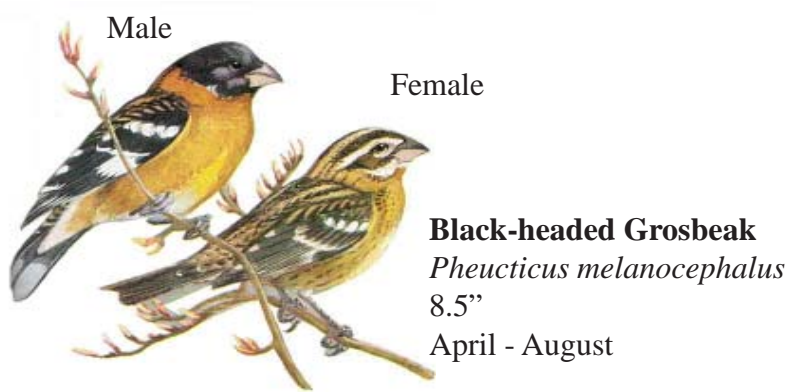
Townsend's Warbler

Dendroica townsendi

5"

October - April

Wilson's Warbler
Wilsonia pusilla
4.75"
April - September



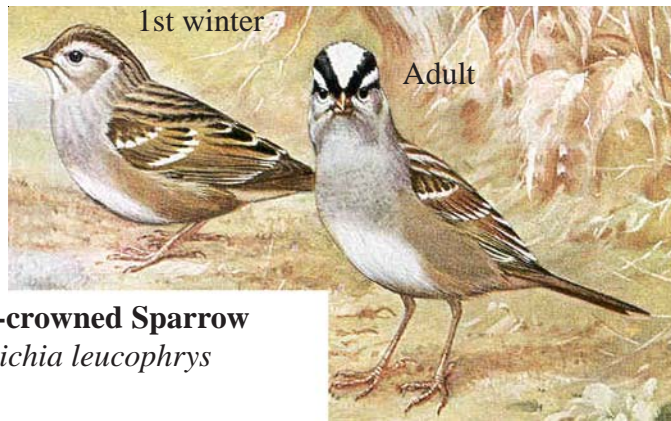
Black-headed Grosbeak
Pheucticus melanocephalus
8.5"
April - August



Spotted Towhee
Pipilo maculatus
8.5"
Year-round



California Towhee
Pipilo crissalis
9"
Year-round



White-crowned Sparrow
Zonotrichia leucophrys
7"
October-April



Golden-crowned Sparrow
Zonotrichia atricapilla
7.25"
October-April

Dark-eyed Junco
Junco hyemalis
6.25"
Year-round

Adult



Juvenile

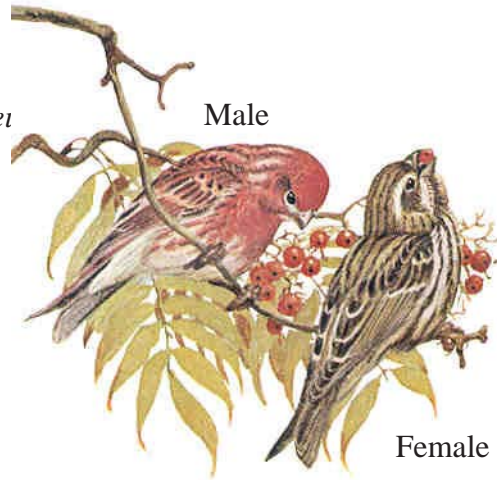


Fox Sparrow
Passerella iliaca
7"
October-April

Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia
6.25"
Year-round



Purple Finch
Carpodacus purpureus
6"
Year-round



Male



House Finch
Carpodacus mexicanus
6"
Year-round

Female



Pine Siskin
Carduelis pinus
5"
November-March

Lesser Goldfinch
Carduelis psaltria
4.5"
Year-round



Adult male



American Goldfinch
Carduelis tristis
5"
Year-round

**116 Bird Species
Seen or Heard in the North Hills Area
June 1993 - April 2008**

American White Pelican	Nuttall's Woodpecker
Double-crested Cormorant	Downy Woodpecker
Canada Goose	Hairy Woodpecker
Snow Goose	Northern Flicker
Great Blue Heron	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Great Egret	Western Wood-Pewee
Turkey Vulture	Willow Flycatcher
Osprey	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Northern Harrier	Say's Phoebe
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black Phoebe
Cooper's Hawk	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Red-shouldered Hawk	Steller's Jay
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Scrub-Jay
Ferruginous Hawk	American Crow
Golden Eagle	Common Raven
American Kestrel	Hutton's Vireo
Merlin	Cassin's Vireo
California Quail	Warbling Vireo
Western Gull	Cedar Waxwing
California Gull	Varied Thrush
Caspian Tern	Western Bluebird
Rock Pigeon	Swainson's Thrush
Band-tailed Pigeon	Hermit Thrush
Mourning Dove	American Robin
Great Horned Owl	Northern Mockingbird
Vaux's Swift	California Thrasher
White-throated Swift	European Starling
Anna's Hummingbird	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Allen's Hummingbird	Brown Creeper
Rufous Hummingbird	Bewick's Wren
Belted Kingfisher	Winter Wren
Acorn Woodpecker	House Wren
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Bushtit	Wilson's Warbler
Violet-green Swallow	Fox Sparrow
Tree Swallow	Song Sparrow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Lincoln's Sparrow
Barn Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Cliff Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Wrentit	Dark-eyed Junco
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Clay-colored Sparrow
Oak Titmouse	Brewer's Sparrow
House Sparrow	Savannah Sparrow
Pine Siskin	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
American Goldfinch	Spotted Towhee
Lesser Goldfinch	California Towhee
Lawrence's Goldfinch	Western Tanager
Purple Finch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Cassin's Finch	Black-headed Grosbeak
House Finch	Lazuli Bunting
Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Yellow Warbler	Hooded Oriole
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Bullock's Oriole
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Townsend's Warbler	Western Meadowlark
Hermit Warbler	Brewer's Blackbird
MacGillivray's Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird

NOTE: The above is list of species recorded by Kay Loughman. A few additional species have been recorded during the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count.