

**Wildlife of the North Hills:
Birds, Animals, Butterflies**



Oakland, California
2007

About this Booklet

The idea for this 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.

For purposes of this booklet, the “North Hills” is defined as that area on the Berkeley/Oakland border roughly 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 a complete record of species found: more than 50 additional bird species have been observed here, smaller rodents were included without visual verification, and the compiler lacks the training to identify reptiles, bats or additional butterflies. We would like to include additional species: advice from local experts is welcome and will speed the process.

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
June 2006



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	

Animals

Mule Deer	Broad-footed Mole
Coyote	California Vole
Gray Fox	Botta's Pocket Gopher
Northern Raccoon	House Mouse
Striped Skunk	Western Harvest Mouse
Virginia Opossum	North American Deermouse
Ringtail	California Deermouse
Eastern Fox Squirrel	
House Rat	

Contents (continued)

Butterflies

Monarch	Mylitta Crescent
Western Tiger Swallowtail	Cabbage White
American Painted Lady	Variable Checkerspot
West Coast Lady	California Ringlet
California Sister	Spring Azure
Pale Swallowtail	Common Checkered Skipper
Lorquin's Admiral	Umber Skipper

Bird species seen or heard in the north hills

Kay's complete list is in the back

Acknowledgements

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

John James Audubon
Wanda Bradley-Smith
Allan Brooks
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Don Eckelberry
Louis Agassiz Fuertes
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R. P. Grossenheider
F. Schuyler Mathews
John L. Ridgeway
Walter A. Weber

NOTE ON MEASUREMENTS

Birds: Tip of beak to end of tail

Animals: Nose to end of tail



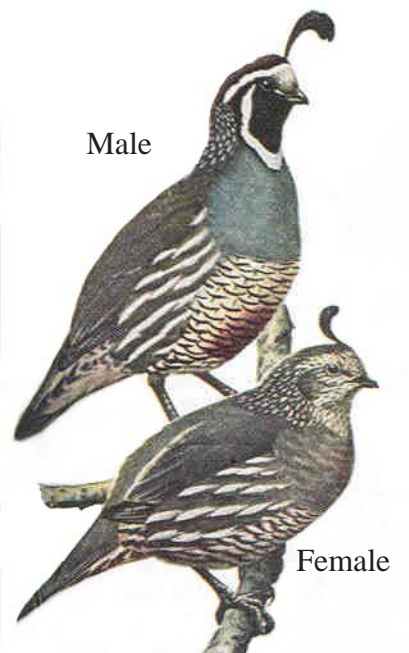
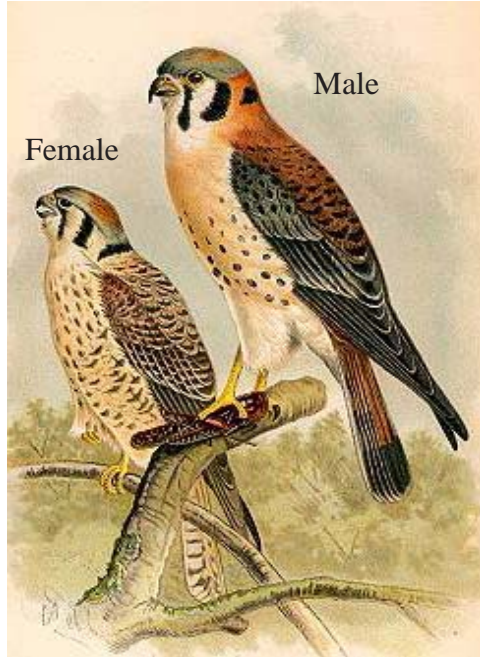
Turkey Vulture
Cathartus aura
26"
Year-round



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"

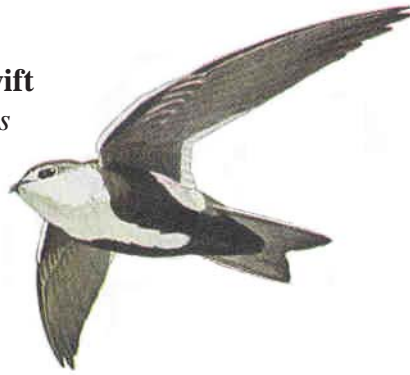
Year-round

White-throated Swift

Aeronautes saxatalis

6.5"

Year-round

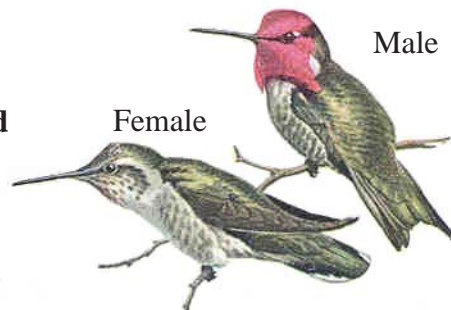


Anna's Hummingbird

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.





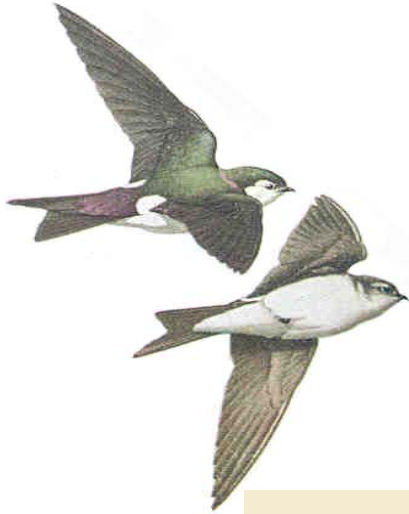
Steller's Jay
Cyanocitta stelleri
11.5"
Year-round



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

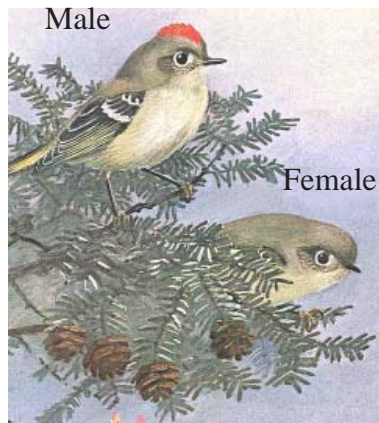
4.5"

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"

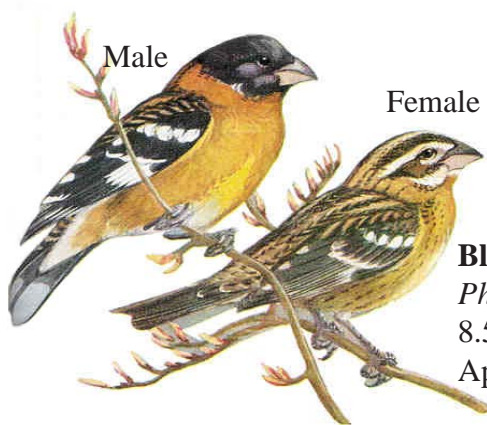
October - April

Wilson's Warbler

Wilsonia pusilla

4.75"

April - September



Male

Female

Black-headed Grosbeak

Pheucticus melanocephalus

8.5"

April - August



Juvenile

Adult

Spotted Towhee

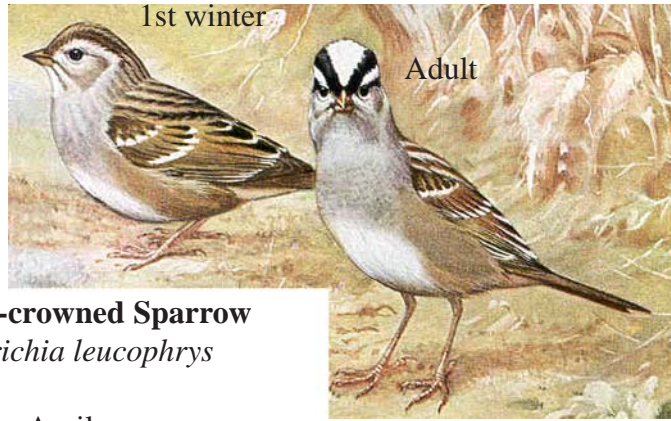
Pipilo maculatus

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

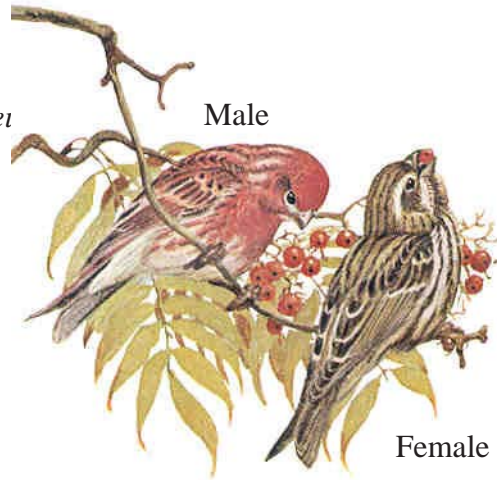


Fox Sparrow
Passerella iliaca
7"
October-April

Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia
6.25"
Year-round



Purple Finch
Carpodacus purpureus
6"
Year-round



Male



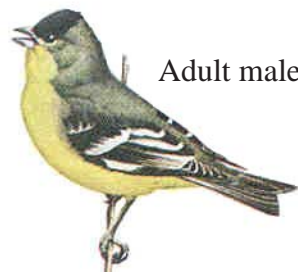
House Finch
Carpodacus mexicanus
6"
Year-round

Female



Pine Siskin
Carduelis pinus
5"
November-March

Lesser Goldfinch
Carduelis psaltria
4.5"
Year-round



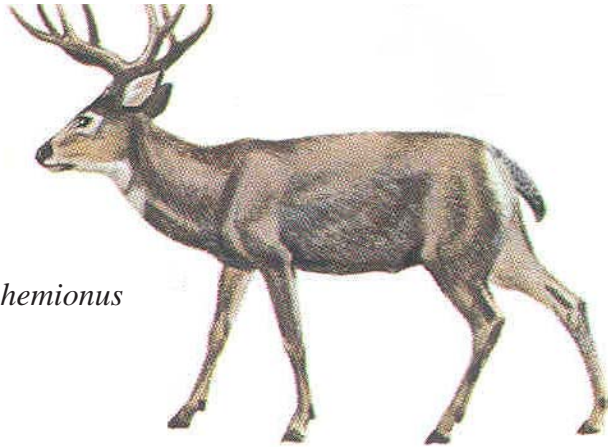
Adult male



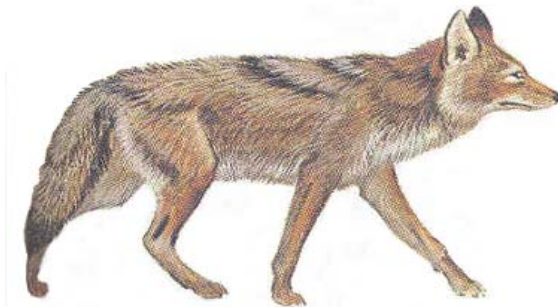
American Goldfinch
Carduelis tristis
5"
Year-round

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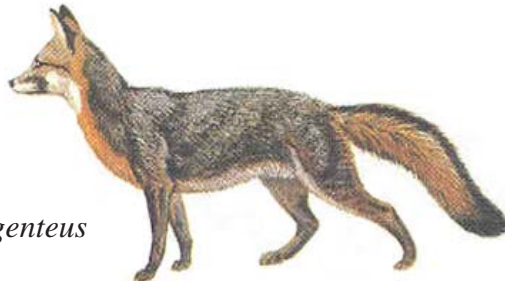
Animals



Mule Deer
Odocoileus hemionus
to 78"



Coyote
Canis latrans
43-70"



Gray Fox
Urocyon cinereoargenteus
32-60"



Striped Skunk
Mephitis mephitis
20-28"



Northern Raccoon
Procyon lotor
26-45"



Ringtail
Bassariscus astutus
33-36"

Virginia Opossum
Didelphis virginiana
24-33"

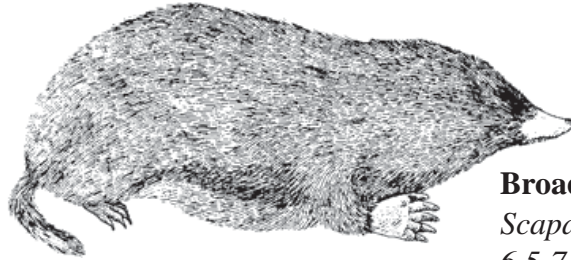


Three color phases
of Fox Squirrel

Eastern Fox Squirrel
Sciurus niger
25-40"

House Rat
Rattus rattus
16"





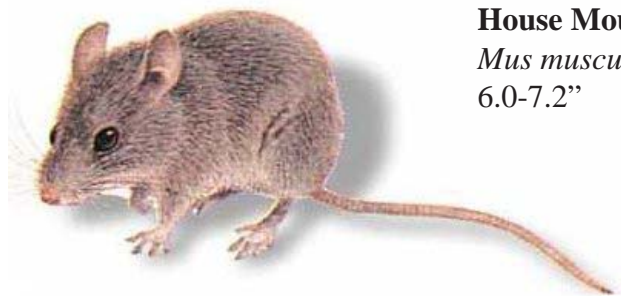
Broad-footed Mole
Scapanus latimanus
6.5-7.5"



California Vole
Microtus californicus
6.3-8.5"



Botta's Pocket Gopher
Thomomys bottae
6.8-10.75"



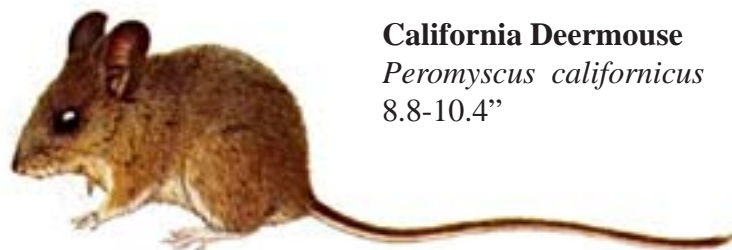
House Mouse
Mus musculus
6.0-7.2"



Western Harvest Mouse
Reithrodontomys megalotis
5.0-6.2"



North American Deermouse
Peromyscus maniculatus
4.8-9.0"



California Deermouse
Peromyscus californicus
8.8-10.4"

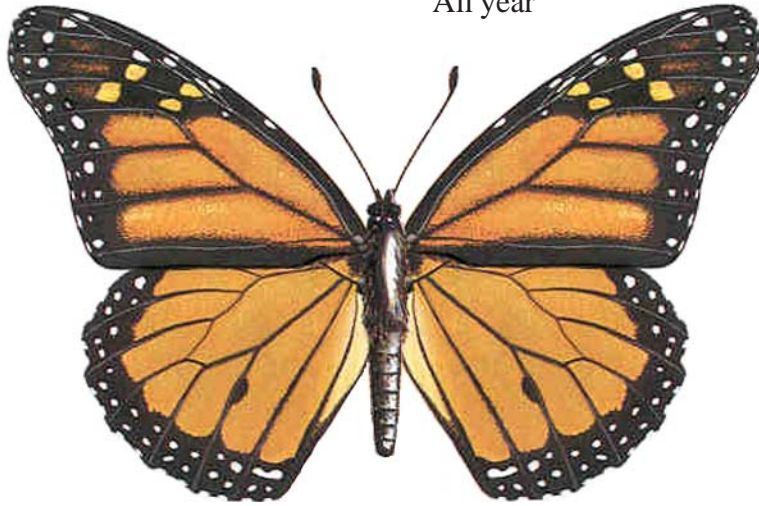
Butterflies

Monarch

Danaus plexippus

Wingspan: 4.125 - 4.625"

All year



Western Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio rutulus

Wingspan: 3.5 - 4.375"

March - September



American Painted Lady
Vanessa virginiensis
Wingspan: 1.75-2.5"
All year



West Coast Lady
Vanessa annabella
Wingspan: 1.75 - 2.125
All year

California Sister
Adelpha bredowii
Wingspan: 2.375 - 3.5"
April - October



The following species were observed in Claremont Canyon by Dr. Jerry Powell, University of California entomologist and butterfly expert, during May 2004, 2005 and 2006.



Pale Swallowtail

Papilio eurymedon

Wingspan: 3 - 3.75"

May - June



Lorquin's Admiral

Limenitis lorquini

Wingspan: 2.25 - 2.75"

April - October

Mylitta Crescent
Phyciodes mylitta
Wingspan: 1.125 - 1.625"
March - October



Cabbage White
Pieris rapae
(*Artogeia rapae*)
Wingspan: 1.625 - 2.25"
Early spring to fall

Variable Checkerspot
Euphydryas chelcedona
Wingspan: 1.5 - 2.125"
April - June





California Ringlet
Coenonympha californica
Wingspan: 1 - 1.25"
March - October



Spring Azure
Celastrina ladon
Wingspan: 1 - 1.125"
February - July



Common Checkered Skipper
Pyrgus communis
Wingspan: .75 - 1.25"
March - October



Umber Skipper
Paratrytone melane
(*Poanes melane*)
Wingspan: 1.125 - 1.25"
March - June; July - October

**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	Pygmy Nuthatch
Rufous Hummingbird	Brown Creeper
Belted Kingfisher	Bewick's Wren
Acorn Woodpecker	Winter Wren
Red-breasted Sapsucker	House Wren

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

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