

North Hills wild life sightings for May 2012

LIST COMPILED BY KAY LOUGHMAN

Editor's note: The North Hills district is a residential neighborhood of Berkeley and North Oakland that borders the Cal campus and a wilderness area. Roughly, the boundaries of the area are Tunnel Road, Domingo Avenue, Claremont Canyon, and Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Neighbors of the area have been contributing to this wildlife list since October 2007.

56 BIRD SPECIES seen or heard in the area during May 2012.

CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNs

Great Blue Heron (MGU)

QUAIL AND TURKEYS

California Quail

Wild Turkey

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES

Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon

Band-tailed Pigeon

Mourning Dove

OWLS

Great Horned Owl (mob)

SWIFTS

White-throated Swift (JC & ER)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird

Allen's Hummingbird

WOODPECKERS

Nuttall's Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker (JC & ER)

Northern Flicker (JC & ER)

FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe (CG)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher

Olive-sided Flycatcher

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo

CROWS AND JAYS

Steller's Jay

Western Scrub-Jay

Common Raven

SWALLOWS

Violet-green Swallow

CHICKADEES, TITS

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Oak Titmouse

LONG-TAILED TITS

Bushtit

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper

WRENs



Photo by John Colbert

Great Horned Owl chick (*Bubo virginianus*) at about five weeks old in early May. By mid-June, the owlet is able to fly short distances, but is still dependent on its parents for food and protection.

Lazuli Bunting

BLACKBIRDS, GRACKLES, ORIOLES

Brown-headed Cowbird

Hooded Oriole

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES

American Goldfinch

Lesser Goldfinch

Purple Finch

House Finch

7 MAMMALS AND REPTILES

Black-tailed Mule Deer

Eastern Fox Squirrel

Striped Skunk

Brush Rabbit (PT)

Virginia Opossum (PT)

Pacific Gophersnake (RT)

Sharp-tailed Snake (WC) A new species for the neighborhood!

17 BUTTERFLY SPECIES

Anise Swallowtail (MGo)

Western Tiger Swallowtail

Cabbage White

Gray-veined White

Orange Sulphur

Sara Orangetip

Mylitta Crescent

Field Crescent

Northern Checkerspot

Variable Checkerspot

Satyr Anglewing

Mourning Cloak

Common Buckeye

California Sister

Lorquin's Admiral

California Ringlet

Umber Skipper

WRENS

Bewick's Wren

House Wren (JC & ER)

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

Wrentit

THRUSHES

American Robin

Western Bluebird

Swainson's Thrush

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

Northern Mockingbird

California Thrasher

STARLINGS

European Starling

WAXWINGS AND SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

ERS

Cedar Waxwing

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler

Wilson's warbler

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, TANAGERS,

ALLIES

Spotted Towhee

California Towhee

Song Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Western Tanager (DQ & mob)

Black-headed Grosbeak

Contributors:

LA=Lee Aurich, WC=Warren Chick, JC & ER=John Colbert and Erica Rutherford, CG=Corinne Greenberg, MGo=Marilyn Goldhaber, MGu=Margaret Gutowski, RT=Rick Talcott, PT=Pat Thorson, mob=many observers. This week Colbert and Rutherford reported seeing 33 bird species in the neighborhood (mostly on their regular hike up from Stonewall and along the Ridge Trail). In the list above, Loughman has given credit only for those species not seen by her.

To see images of the native animals, and for more info, go to www.nhwildlife.net. For more detailed information about individual bird species, go to www.allabout-birds.org.

Kay Loughman is a retired employee of Cal Libraries, a birder, a native plant gardener, and long-time resident of the Berkeley area. The North Hills Wild Life list (including photos) is published online at www.NHWildlife.net. She can be contacted at kayloughman@earthlink.net.