

# North Hills wild life sightings for March 2014

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.*

**63 BIRD SPECIES**

**PHEASANTS, GROUSE, QUAIL AND TURKEYS**

- California Quail
- Wild Turkey

**NEW WORLD VULTURES**

- Turkey Vulture

**HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES**

- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk (JC & ER)
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Peregrine Falcon (JC & ER)
- American Kestrel

**GULLS**

- California Gull (JC & ER)

**PIGEONS AND DOVES**

- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Mourning Dove
- Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) (JC & ER)

**OWLS**

- Great Horned Owl (also AC)

**SWIFTS**

- White-throated Swift

**HUMMINGBIRDS**

- Anna's Hummingbird
- Allen's Hummingbird

**WOODPECKERS**

- Nuttall's Woodpecker (JC & ER)
- Downy Woodpecker (JC & ER)
- Hairy Woodpecker (JC & ER)
- Northern Flicker

**FLYCATCHERS**

- Black Phoebe
- Pacific-slope Flycatcher (JC & ER)

**VIREOS**

- Hutton's Vireo

**CROWS AND JAYS**

- Steller's Jay
- Western Scrub-Jay
- American Crow
- Common Raven

**SWALLOWS**

- Violet-green Swallow (JC & ER)



**CHICKADEES, TITS**

- Chestnut-backed Chickadee
- Oak Titmouse

**LONG-TAILED TITS**

- Bushtit

**NUTHATCHES**

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Pygmy Nuthatch (JC & ER)

**CREEPERS**

- Brown Creeper (JC & ER)

**WRENS**

- Bewick's Wren
- Pacific Wren (JC & ER)
- House Wren (JC & ER)

**KINGLETS**

- Golden-crowned Kinglet (JC & ER)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet

**OLD-WORLD WARBLERS**

- Wrentit

**THRUSHES**

- Hermit Thrush
- American Robin (leucistic: RL & MR)

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS**

- Northern Mockingbird (JC & ER)
- California Thrasher

**WAXWINGS AND SILKY-FLY-CATCHERS**

- Cedar Waxwing

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS**

- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Townsend's Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
- Wilson's Warbler

**BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, TANAGERS, ALLIES**

- Spotted Towhee
- California Towhee
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow (DK & NM)
- Golden-crowned Sparrow

- Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon and Slate-colored)

**BLACKBIRDS**

- Red-winged Blackbird (JC & ER)

**SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND AL-LIES**

- Purple Finch
- House Finch
- Lesser Goldfinch

**7 BUTTERFLY SPECIES**

- Anise Swallowtail
- Cabbage White
- Grey-veined White
- Sara Orange-tip
- Acmon Blue
- Common Hairstreak
- Mylitta Crescent



**OTHER**

- Eastern Fox Squirrel
- Black-tailed Mule Deer
- Sierran Treefrog (JR)

**HUMAN CONTRIBUTORS**

JC & ER = John Colbert and Erica Rutherford, DK & NM = David Kessler and Nancy Mennel, RM = Rob McDonough, RL = Robert Lewis, MR = Mark Rauzon, AC = Alexandra Cons, JR = Janet Rudolph. These con-

tributors reported at least 61 species of birds from their yards and walks in the neighborhood. In the list above, I've given them credit only for the 17 species not seen by me. RM first reported the leucistic robin which was later seen by many, and photographed by RL and MR.

Several wildlife pictures were added to the website this month, and soon will be transferred to their appropriate galleries. The photo galleries, monthly bird lists cumulated, and pictures of most of the above species are on my website: Wild Life of the North Hills (NHWildlife.net).

April continues the spring migration and breeding season for our birds. Several of the species seen early in the month will be gone by the end. Some will molt before their departure – with scruffy-looking feathers replaced by sleek, gorgeous plumage. Of those who stay here all year, many are already seeking mates and defending territories. Watch for the arrival of Black-headed Grosbeaks and Hooded Orioles. For more detailed informa-



Photo by Kay Loughman

*American Kestrel (Falco sparverius), our smallest hawk and would-be Berkeleyan, this falcon has wintered near the KPFA transmitter site for at least seven years. Kestrels are more often seen in rural areas, where they perch on telephone wires from which they hunt for insects, lizards, and small mammals.*

tion about individual bird species, go to [allaboutbirds.org/](http://allaboutbirds.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](http://www.NHWildlife.net). She can be contacted at [kayloughman@earthlink.net](mailto:kayloughman@earthlink.net).