

North Hills wild life sightings for May 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.

61 BIRD SPECIES SEEN

PHEASANTS, GROUSE, QUAIL AND TURKEYS

California Quail
Wild Turkey

CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES

Sharp-shinned Hawk (JC & ER)
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Band-tailed Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Rock Pigeon

OWLS

Great Horned Owl (JC & ER)

SWIFTS

White-throated Swift (JC & ER)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird
Allen's Hummingbird

WOODPECKERS

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

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Black Phoebe (DK & NM)

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo
Warbling Vireo

CROWS AND JAYS

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

SWALLOWS

Violet-green Swallow

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
House Wren (JC & ER)

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

Wrentit

THRUSHES

Western Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
American Robin
Leucistic robin (IGH, LH, SB, mob)

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

Northern Mockingbird
California Thrasher

WAXWINGS AND SILKY-FLY-CATCHERS

Cedar Waxwing

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler
Townsend's Warbler (JC & ER)
Wilson's Warbler

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, TANGERS, ALLIES

Spotted Towhee
California Towhee
Song Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Black-headed Grosbeak
Western Tanager (NM)
Lazuli Bunting (JC, KL)

BLACKBIRDS, GRACKLES, ORIOLES

Hooded Oriole

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALIENS

Purple Finch
House Finch
American Goldfinch
Lesser Goldfinch

19 BUTTERFLY SPECIES

Anise Swallowtail
Western Tiger Swallowtail
Cabbage White
Gray-veined White
Sara Orangetip

Orange Sulphur

Echo Blue
Acmon Blue
Gulf Fritillary
Mylitta Crescent
Field Crescent
Variable Checkerspot
Northern Checkerspot
Common Buckeye
Painted Lady
Lorquin's Admiral
Monarch
California Ringlet
Umber Skipper

6 MAMMAL SPECIES

Eastern Fox Squirrel
Black-tailed Mule Deer
Northern Raccoon (road kill)
Striped Skunk (LH)
Gray Fox (GK, JC&ER, NM, MK)
Coyote (GH, ME)

HUMAN CONTRIBUTORS

JC & ER = John Colbert and Erica Rutherford, DK & NM = David Kessler and Nancy Mennel, SB = Shelagh Broderson, ME = Marianna Eraklis, GH = George Hochfeld, GK = Gerry Keenan, MK = Michael Kovac, NM = Nancy Mueller, IGH = Ilan Gonzalez-Hirshfeld, LH = Lynn Hovland, RM = Robert MacConnell, mob = many observers.

These contributors reported or photographed at least 57 species of birds from their yards and walks in the neighborhood. In the list above, I've given them credit only for the 11 species not seen by me.

More than 30 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).

June and July are family time for our birds. You'll see them feeding young, and you'll see the nestlings fledge. Families will vacate the nest area as im-



Photo by John Colbert

House Wren (Troglodytes aedon) adult with hungry chick at nest hole in snag. Dead trees, such as this one, continue to benefit birds by providing perches, nest sites, and nutrition in the form of insects.

mature birds learn to hunt on their own. For more detailed information about individual bird species, go to 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.

NOTE: Layout of original article has been adjusted to fit this page. --KHL