

North Hills wild life sightings for December 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.*

60 BIRD SPECIES SEEN

QUAIL AND TURKEYS

California Quail (CBC)

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Cooper's Hawk (JC & ER)

Red-shouldered Hawk (JC & ER)

Red-tailed Hawk

American Kestrel (CBC, JC & ER)

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Band-tailed Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Rock Pigeon



OWLS

Western Screech-Owl (CBC)

Great Horned Owl

(AC, CBC, JC & ER)

Northern Saw-whet Owl (CBC)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird

WOODPECKERS

Acorn Woodpecker

(VG, CBC, JC & ER)

Red-breasted Sapsucker

(RP, CBC, JC & ER)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (new for

Claremont Canyon)

Nuttall's Woodpecker

(CBC, JC & ER)

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo

CROWS AND JAYS

Steller's Jay

Western Scrub-Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

CHICKADEES, TITS

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Oak Titmouse

LONG-TAILED TITS

Bushtit

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch

(CBC, JC & ER)

White-breasted Nuthatch (CBC)

Pygmy Nuthatch (CBC, JC & ER)

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper (CBC, JC & ER)

WRENS

Pacific Wren (CBC)

Bewick's Wren

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet

(CBC, JC & ER)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

OLD WORLD WARBLER

Wrentit*

THRUSHES

Western Bluebird (JC & ER)

Hermit Thrush

American Robin

Varied Thrush

THRASHERS AND

MOCKINGBIRDS

California Thrasher

Northern Mockingbird

WAXWINGS AND

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

Cedar Waxwing

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Townsend's Warbler

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS,

TANAGERS, ALLIES

Spotted Towhee

California Towhee

Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Lincoln's Sparrow

Golden-crowned Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco (photos)

Black-headed Grosbeak (very late!)

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS

AND ALLIES

Purple Finch

House Finch

Pine Siskin

Lesser Goldfinch

MAMMALS

Black-tailed Mule Deer

Coyote (JC & ER)

Gray Fox

Eastern Fox Squirrel

North American Deer Mouse

(JC & ER)

HUMAN CONTRIBUTORS

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

team, JC & ER = John Colbert



and Erica Rutherford, AC = Alexandra Cons, VG = Victor Gold, DK & NM = David Kessler and Nancy Mennel, RP = Randi Plotner. These contributors collectively reported more than 50 species of birds and other wildlife 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.

Many 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). For more detailed information about individual bird species, this is a good resource: 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.

Photo by John Colbert



Anna's Hummingbird

(Calypte anna). Sunlight at just the right angle lets us appreciate the iridescent fuchsia color of the male's head and throat. Anna's Hummingbirds are year-round residents of the western U.S. Often courting in December, the females may be on nests by the end of January.