

North Hills wild life sightings for April 2015

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.*

73 BIRD SPECIES

PHEASANTS, GROUSE, QUAIL AND TURKEYS

- California Quail
- Wild Turkey

NEW WORLD VULTURES

- Turkey Vulture

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNs

- Great Blue Heron (JC & ER)

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES

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

PIGEONS AND DOVES

- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Mourning Dove

OWLS

- Great Horned Owl (JC & ER)

SWIFTS

- White-throated Swift

HUMMINGBIRDS

- Black-chinned Hummingbird (new species for Claremont Canyon)

- Anna's Hummingbird
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Allen's Hummingbird

WOODPECKERS

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

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

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

VIREOS

- Hutton's Vireo
- Warbling Vireo (JC & ER)

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)

KINGLETS

- Ruby-crowned Kinglet (JC & ER)

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

- Wrentit

THRUSHES

- Western Bluebird (JC & ER)
- Swainson's Thrush (JC & ER)
- Hermit Thrush
- American Robin (SM)

MOCKINGBIRDS AND

THRASHERS

- Northern Mockingbird (JC & ER)
- California Thrasher

STARLINGS

- European Starling

WAXWINGS AND SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

- Cedar Waxwing

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Hermit Warbler (JC & ER)
- Townsend's Warbler (JC & ER)
- Wilson's Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat (BM, new species for Claremont Canyon)

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, TANAGERS, ALLIES

- Spotted Towhee
- California Towhee
- Song Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Lazuli Bunting
- Western Tanager (BM)

BLACKBIRDS, GRACKLES,

ORIOLES

- Red-winged Blackbird (JC & ER)
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Hooded Oriole

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES

- Purple Finch
- House Finch
- Pine Siskin
- Lesser Goldfinch



13 BUTTERFLY and MOTH SPECIES

- Cabbage White
- Sara Orangetip
- Acmon Blue
- Mylitta Crescent
- Field Crescent (JR)
- Variable Checkerspot
- Northern Checkerspot
- Painted Lady
- Common Buckeye
- Monarch (JC & ER)
- Mournful Duskywing (JC & ER)
- Umber Skipper
- Genista moth

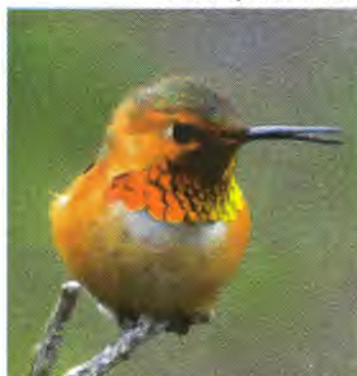
MAMMALS and OTHER

- Black-tailed Mule Deer
- Coyote (KM)
- Eastern Fox Squirrel
- Striped Skunk
- Western Fence Lizard
- Alligator Lizard

HUMAN CONTRIBUTORS

JC & ER = John Colbert & Erica Rutherford, BM = Bruce Mast, SM = Sue Miller (who saw the leucistic robin), KM = Kiyash Monsef, JR = Janet Rudolph. These contributors collectively reported at least 67 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 21 bird species not seen by me.

Photo by John Colbert



Male (Selasphorus), genus for the very similar Allen's and Rufous hummingbirds. Both species are in our area during March and April. Allen's arrives in January, breeds, and departs by the end of July; Rufous visits for a couple of weeks before heading north for breeding. It may visit again on the return trip in August. Both males have an iridescent red-orange gorget, and varying amounts of cinnamon color in the plumage.

April is usually an interesting month with many species departing to breed elsewhere, and many arriving to breed here. This April we added 12 bird species for 2015, including two species not recorded previously in Claremont Canyon: Common Yellowthroat (more frequently associated with marshlands) and Black-chinned Hummingbird (more commonly found in riparian areas in counties south of us). More migrants expected in May.

More than 50 wildlife pictures were added to the website during April and have now been 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 info about individual bird species, go to 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. She can be contacted at kayloughman@earthlink.net.

