

North Hills wild life sightings for February 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.*

56 BIRD SPECIES

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 (JC & ER)
Red-tailed Hawk

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Band-tailed Pigeon
Mourning Dove

OWLS

Great Horned Owl

SWIFTS

White-throated Swift (JC & ER)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird
Allen's Hummingbird

WOODPECKERS

Acorn Woodpecker (JC & ER)
Nuttall's Woodpecker (JC & ER)
Hairy Woodpecker (JC & ER)
Red-breasted Sapsucker (JC &

ER)

Northern Flicker

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo

CROWS AND JAYS

Steller's Jay
Western Scrub-Jay
American Crow (JC & ER)

Common Raven

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

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet (JC & ER)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

Wrenit

THRUSHES

Western Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Varied Thrush

THRASHERS AND

MOCKINGBIRDS

California Thrasher (JC & ER)

WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing (JC & ER)

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler (JC & ER)

Yellow-rumped Warbler (AUWA)

Townsend's Warbler (JC & ER)

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS,

TANAGERS, ALLIES

Spotted Towhee

California Towhee

Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow (DK & NM)

White-crowned Sparrow

Golden-crowned Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Black-headed Grosbeak

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES

Purple Finch

House Finch

Lesser Goldfinch

Pine Siskin

OTHER CRITTERS

Mourning Cloak Butterfly

Monarch Butterfly

Eastern Fox Squirrel

Black-tailed Mule Deer

Photo by John Colbert



Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) *in willows. This species, widespread in the US, winters in the southern half of the country and along the Pacific coast. It is quiet and unobtrusive, spending much of its time in dense foliage, eating a diet of both insects and berries. Like many other thrushes, it has a lovely song - listen for it if you are in the mountains during the late spring.*

HUMAN CONTRIBUTORS

JC & ER = John Colbert & Erica Rutherford; DK & NM = David Kessler & Nancy Mennel. These contributors collectively reported at least 52 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 16 bird species not seen by me.

Several wildlife pictures were added to the website during February and have 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 (www.nhwildlife.net).

In March, notice that the crowned sparrows are molting into breeding plumage. Some, along with Fox and Lincoln's sparrows, will depart the Bay Area for points north. For more detailed information about individual bird species, this is a good resource: 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.