

North Hills wild life sightings for March 2016

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.*

Photo by Kay Loughman

62 BIRD SPECIES

PHEASANTS, GROUSE, QUAIL AND TURKEYS

- Wild Turkey
- California Quail

CORMORANTS

- Double-crested Cormorant

NEW WORLD VULTURES

- Turkey Vulture

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES

- Accipiter (sp.) (AP)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk

- American Kestrel

PIGEONS AND DOVES

- Rock Pigeon (also DK & NM)
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Mourning Dove

OWLS

- Great Horned Owl

SWIFTS

- White-throated Swift

HUMMINGBIRDS

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

WOODPECKERS

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

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

- Black Phoebe (JC & ER)

VIREOS

- Hutton's 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

WRENS

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

KINGLETS

- Ruby-crowned Kinglet (JC & ER)

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

- Wrentit

THRUSHES

- Hermit Thrush
- American Robin
- Varied Thrush (JC & ER)

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

- California Thrasher (JC & ER)

WAXWINGS

- Cedar Waxwing

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler

- Yellow-rumped Warbler-AUWA
- Townsend's Warbler
- Hermit Warbler (JC & ER)
- Wilson's Warbler

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
- ORIOLES
- Hooded Oriole (CG)

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES

- Purple Finch (JC & ER)
- House Finch
- Lesser Goldfinch
- Pine Siskin

6 BUTTERFLY SPECIES

- Cabbage White
- Gray-veined White
- Large Marble
- Sara Orangetip
- Echo Blue
- Mylitta Crescent

OTHER CRITTERS

- Skilton's Skink (DG)
- Eastern Fox Squirrel
- Black-tailed Mule Deer



Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) visit the Bay Area briefly on their way north to breed. This March our neighborhood was on the migration path for unusually high numbers of this species, a treat for local birders and photographers! This bird is a young male (hatched in 2015). He has not yet acquired the flaming orange throat that defines adult male Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds.

In April, the last of the crowned sparrows will depart. Neotropical migrants who breed in the area will arrive. 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 kay-loughman@earthlink.net.

HUMAN CONTRIBUTORS

JC & ER = John Colbert & Erica Rutherford; DK & NM = David Kessler & Nancy Mennel; CG = Caryn Gregg; DG = Dan Grassetti; AP = Alex Pierce. These contributors collectively reported at least 59 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 15 bird species not seen by me.

Several wildlife pictures were added to the website during March 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).

