

## **Birds of the North Hills**



Oakland, California  
2007

## About this Booklet

The booklet grew out of a suggestion from Anne Seasons, President of the North Hills Phoenix Association, that I compile pictures of local birds in a form that could be made available to residents of the north hills. I expanded on that idea to include other local wildlife, shown in separate files.

The “North Hills” is defined as that area on the Berkeley/Oakland border bounded by Claremont Avenue on the north, Tunnel Road on the south, Grizzly Peak Blvd. on the east, and Domingo Avenue on the west.

The species shown here are observed, heard or tracked *with some regularity* in this area. The lists are not intended to be a complete record of species found: more than 50 additional bird species have been observed here.

A few of the species listed fall into the category of pests; but most - whether resident or visitor - are desirable additions to the neighborhood. We hope you will enjoy using this booklet to identify the wildlife you see around you.

Kay Loughman  
October 2005



# Contents

## Birds

Turkey Vulture	Bewick's Wren
Red-tailed Hawk	Wrentit
American Kestrel	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
California Quail	American Robin
Mourning Dove	Hermit thrush
Rock Pigeon	Northern Mockingbird
Band-tailed Pigeon	Orange-crowned Warbler
Great Horned Owl	Yellow-rumped Warbler
White-throated Swift	Townsend's Warbler
Anna's Hummingbird	Wilson's Warbler
Allen's Hummingbird	Black-headed Grosbeak
Rufous Hummingbird	Spotted Towhee
Nuttall's Woodpecker	California Towhee
Northern Flicker	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Hutton's Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Steller's Jay	Fox Sparrow
Western Scrub Jay	Song Sparrow
Common Raven	Dark-eyed Junco
Violet-green Swallow	Purple Finch
Barn Swallow	House Finch
Oak Titmouse	Pine Siskin
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Lesser Goldfinch
Bushtit	American Goldfinch
Red-breasted Nuthatch	

### **Bird species seen or heard in the north hills:**

Kay's complete list is in the back

## **Acknowledgements**

Most of the drawings here first appeared in older field identification guides. A few were found on the World Wide Web. Artists include among others:

John James Audubon  
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NOTE ON MEASUREMENTS  
Birds: Tip of beak to end of tail



**Turkey Vulture**

*Cathartus aura*

26"

Year-round



**Red-tailed Hawk**

*Buteo jamaicensis*

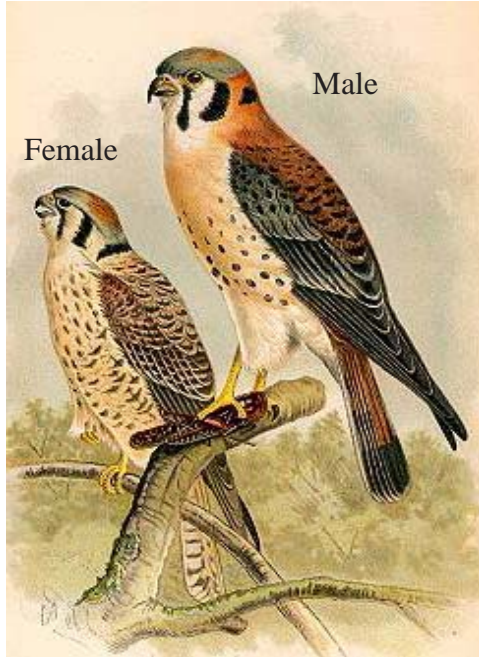
19"

Year-round

Plumage variable; red tail acquired  
in spring of second year.



**American Kestrel**  
*Falco sparverius*  
9"  
Year-round



**California Quail**  
*Callipepla californica*  
10"  
Year-round

**Mourning Dove**  
*Zenaida macroura*  
12"  
Year-round



**Rock Pigeon**  
*Columba livia*  
12.5"  
Year-round



**Band-tailed Pigeon**  
*Columba fasciata*  
14.5"  
Year-round



**Great Horned Owl**

*Bubo virginianus*

22"

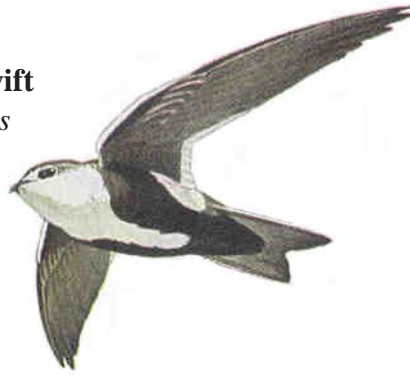
Year-round

**White-throated Swift**

*Aeronautes saxatalis*

6.5"

Year-round

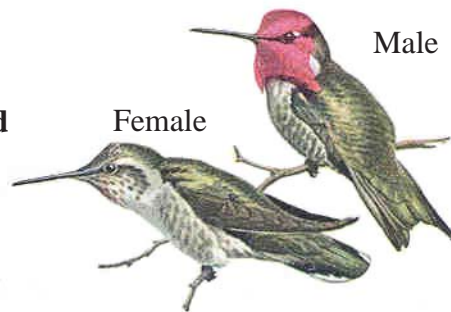


**Anna's Hummingbird**

*Calypte anna*

4"

Year-round



Male

Female





**Rufous Hummingbird**

*Selasphorus rufus*

3.75"

March - April, August - September

**Allen's Hummingbird**

*Selasphorus sasin*

3.75"

March - July



**Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird**

*Female*

**Rufous Hummingbird**

*Male*

**Anna's Hummingbird**

*Male*

**Allen's Hummingbird**

*Male*

**Nuttall's Woodpecker**

*Picoides nuttallii*

7.5"

Year-round



**Northern Flicker**

*Colaptes auratus*

12.5"

Year-round

**Hutton's Vireo**

*Vireo huttoni*

5"

Year-round. Similar to Ruby-crowned Kinglet.





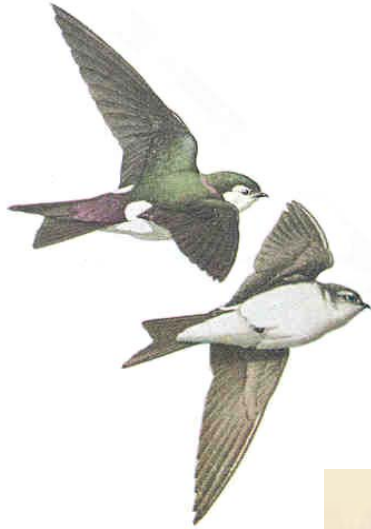
**Steller's Jay**  
*Cyanocitta stelleri*  
11.5"  
Year-round



**Western Scrub Jay**  
*Aphelocoma californica*  
11.5"  
Year-round



**Common Raven**  
*Corvus corax*  
24"  
Year-round



**Violet-green Swallow**  
*Tachycineta thalassina*  
5.25"  
April - July

**Barn Swallow**  
*Hirundo rustica*  
6.75"  
April - July



**Oak Titmouse**  
*Baeolophus inornatus*  
5.75"  
Year-round



**Chestnut-backed Chickadee**

*Poecile rufescens*

4.75"

Year-round

**Bushtit**

*Psaltriparus minimus*

4.5"

Year-round. Often seen in flocks of seven or more.



**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

*Sitta canadensis*

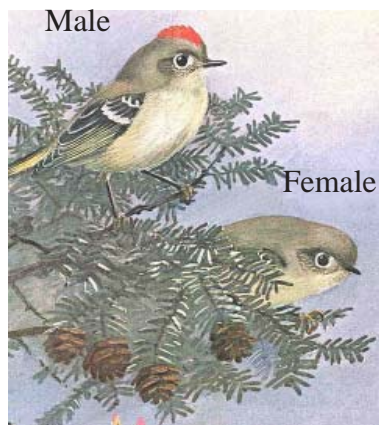
4.5"

Year-round



**Bewick's Wren**  
*Thryomanes bewickii*  
5.25"  
Year-round

**Wrentit**  
*Chamaea fasciata*  
6.5"  
Year-round



**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
*Regulus calendula*  
4.25"  
October - March  
  
Similar to Hutton's Vireo.  
Red crown seen infrequently



**American Robin**  
*Turdus migratorius*  
10"  
Year-round



**Hermit Thrush**  
*Catharus guttatus*  
6.75"  
October - April

**Northern Mockingbird**  
*Mimus polyglottos*  
10"  
Year-round





**Orange-crowned Warbler**

*Vermivora celata*

5"

April - September

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

*Dendroica coronata*

5.5"

October - April

Plumage variable



**Townsend's Warbler**

*Dendroica townsendi*

5"

October - April



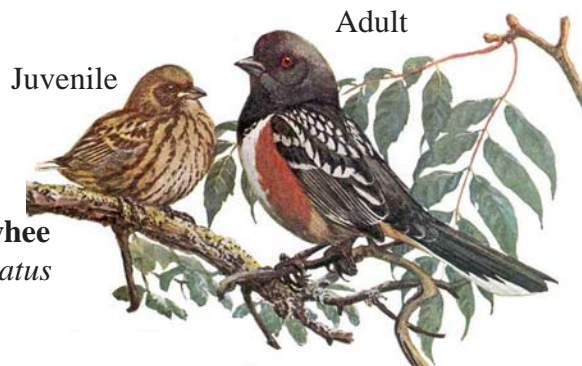
**Wilson's Warbler**  
*Wilsonia pusilla*  
4.75"  
April - September



Male

Female

**Black-headed Grosbeak**  
*Pheucticus melanocephalus*  
8.5"  
April - August



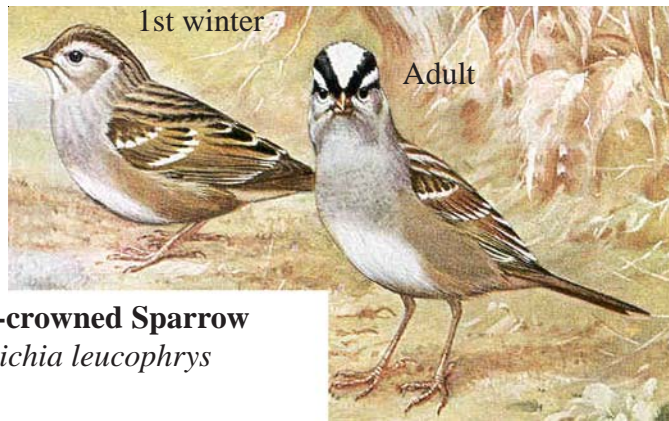
Juvenile

Adult

**Spotted Towhee**  
*Pipilo maculatus*  
8.5"  
Year-round



**California Towhee**  
*Pipilo crissalis*  
9"  
Year-round



**White-crowned Sparrow**  
*Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
7"  
October-April



**Golden-crowned Sparrow**  
*Zonotrichia atricapilla*  
7.25"  
October-April

**Dark-eyed Junco**  
*Junco hyemalis*  
6.25"  
Year-round

Adult



Juvenile

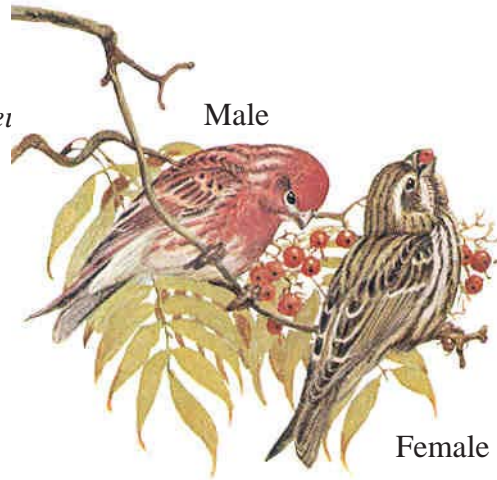


**Fox Sparrow**  
*Passerella iliaca*  
7"  
October-April

**Song Sparrow**  
*Melospiza melodia*  
6.25"  
Year-round



**Purple Finch**  
*Carpodacus purpureus*  
6"  
Year-round



Male



**House Finch**  
*Carpodacus mexicanus*  
6"  
Year-round

Female



**Pine Siskin**  
*Carduelis pinus*  
5"  
November-March

**Lesser Goldfinch**  
*Carduelis psaltria*  
4.5"  
Year-round



Adult male



**American Goldfinch**  
*Carduelis tristis*  
5"  
Year-round

**116 Bird Species**  
**Seen or Heard in the North Hills Area**  
**June 1993 - April 2008**

American White Pelican	Nuttall's Woodpecker
Double-crested Cormorant	Downy Woodpecker
Canada Goose	Hairy Woodpecker
Snow Goose	Northern Flicker
Great Blue Heron	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Great Egret	Western Wood-Pewee
Turkey Vulture	Willow Flycatcher
Osprey	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Northern Harrier	Say's Phoebe
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black Phoebe
Cooper's Hawk	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Red-shouldered Hawk	Steller's Jay
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Scrub-Jay
Ferruginous Hawk	American Crow
Golden Eagle	Common Raven
American Kestrel	Hutton's Vireo
Merlin	Cassin's Vireo
California Quail	Warbling Vireo
Western Gull	Cedar Waxwing
California Gull	Varied Thrush
Caspian Tern	Western Bluebird
Rock Pigeon	Swainson's Thrush
Band-tailed Pigeon	Hermit Thrush
Mourning Dove	American Robin
Great Horned Owl	Northern Mockingbird
Vaux's Swift	California Thrasher
White-throated Swift	European Starling
Anna's Hummingbird	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Allen's Hummingbird	Brown Creeper
Rufous Hummingbird	Bewick's Wren
Belted Kingfisher	Winter Wren
Acorn Woodpecker	House Wren
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Bushtit	Wilson's Warbler
Violet-green Swallow	Fox Sparrow
Tree Swallow	Song Sparrow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Lincoln's Sparrow
Barn Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Cliff Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Wrentit	Dark-eyed Junco
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Clay-colored Sparrow
Oak Titmouse	Brewer's Sparrow
House Sparrow	Savannah Sparrow
Pine Siskin	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
American Goldfinch	Spotted Towhee
Lesser Goldfinch	California Towhee
Lawrence's Goldfinch	Western Tanager
Purple Finch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Cassin's Finch	Black-headed Grosbeak
House Finch	Lazuli Bunting
Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Yellow Warbler	Hooded Oriole
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Bullock's Oriole
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Townsend's Warbler	Western Meadowlark
Hermit Warbler	Brewer's Blackbird
MacGillivray's Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird

**NOTE: The above is list of species recorded by Kay Loughman. A few additional species have been recorded during the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count.**