

## Wildlife Website - update

Last May the NHPA News announced my cooperative website containing photos documenting the natural history of the North Hills / Claremont Canyon area. Since then, the photo galleries have grown enormously. We have pictures of more than 300 species of birds, butterflies and other invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, trees, ferns, flowers, herbs, grasses, mushrooms, lichens and mosses. Just added to the Plant Gallery is an album with pictures of invasive species – a handy reference to plants that don't make good neighbors.

More than 30 photographers – most of whom are our neighbors – have contributed to the galleries. New pictures are being added every week, and more pictures of any species are welcome. Spring is a great time to be out walking around with a camera. Here's a wish list where I'd be especially pleased to receive a picture taken locally: coyote, opossum, any owls, frogs, gophers, salamanders, snakes, lizards, insects, etc.

In addition to photographs, the website contains lists of plant and bird species recorded in the north hills, recommendations for field guides, and more. Check it out at: <http://www.NHWildlife.net>

– Kay Loughman



Kay Loughman

Chestnut-backed Chickadee with a face-full of pollen from the Arroyo Willow in which it is sitting, Claremont Canyon, February 2008.

## Temescal-Sibley Trail

The Temescal-Sibley Trail committee is still working and making progress. In fact, we've reached a stage where we could use some community support to get it funded.

First, a little review; the Temescal-Sibley Trail would connect the City of Oakland to the San Francisco Bay Trail. Specifically, the Temescal-Sibley Trail would go from the Sports Field near Caldecott Tunnel to Sibley Regional Park. The Temescal-Sibley trail could be accessed from Rockridge BART Station, then a short walk to Lake Temescal then up to the Sports Field on to Grizzly Peak Blvd. and finally Sibley Regional Park where it would connect with the San Francisco Bay Trail. This connection would open an array of possibilities. The San Francisco Bay Trail is a planned recreational corridor that will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 500-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails. It will connect the shoreline of all nine Bay Area counties, link 47 cities, and cross the major toll bridges in the region. To date, approximately 290 miles, over half the Bay Trail's ultimate length, have been completed. This trail would act as a feeder trail from Oakland to the San Francisco Bay Trail.

Why do we want the Temescal-Sibley connection? A few reasons include: hiking opportunities and open space enjoyment, native plant growth area, animal habitats, provision of an escape route in case of a devastating earthquake and finally a connection between the flatlands, the hill areas of Oakland and the greater Bay Area.

Now we are reaching the final stage of agreements with developers and with the help of Jane Brunner's office, the trail has been included in the East Bay Regional Park System plan for possible projects to be funded through Measure AA funds. But there is real danger that it will NOT be on the final list to be funded. We need the support of individuals and organizations in Oakland and the Bay Area to let the Park System people know that we need this trail. If you know of organizations that might be supportive, let us know. We will contact them, give them information about the trail, and ask for their help.

– Helen Black and Anne Seasons  
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Web sites to look at:

[www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail/jurisdictions.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail/jurisdictions.html)  
[www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail/jurisdictions.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail/jurisdictions.html)  
[www.abag.ca.gov/abag/test/baytrail/bridges.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/test/baytrail/bridges.html)