

North Hills wild life sightings for February 2014

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.*

61 BIRD SPECIES

PHEASANTS, GROUSE, QUAIL AND TURKEYS

- California Quail
- Wild Turkey

NEW WORLD VULTURES

- Turkey Vulture

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES

- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- American Kestrel

GULLS

- California Gull (JC & ER)
- Glaucous-winged Gull (JC & ER)

PIGEONS AND DOVES

- Rock Pigeon
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Mourning Dove

OWLS

- Great Horned Owl

SWIFTS

- White-throated Swift (JC & ER)

HUMMINGBIRDS

- Anna's Hummingbird
- Allen's Hummingbird

WOODPECKERS

- Red-breasted Sapsucker (JC & ER)
- Nuttall's Woodpecker (JC & ER)
- Downy Woodpecker (JC & ER)
- Hairy Woodpecker (JC & ER)
- Northern Flicker

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

- Black Phoebe

VIREOS

- Hutton's Vireo (JC & ER)

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
- Pacific Wren (JC & ER)

KINGLETS

- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet

OLD-WORLD WARBLERS

- Wrentit

THRUSHES

- Western Bluebird (JC & ER)
- Hermit Thrush

American Robin

MOCKINGBIRDS AND

THRASHERS

- California Thrasher

STARLINGS

- European Starling (JC & ER)

WAXWINGS AND SILKY-FLY-CATCHERS

- Cedar Waxwing

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

- Orange-crowned Warbler (JC & ER)

- Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)

- Townsend's Warbler

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, TANAGERS, ALLIES

- Spotted Towhee
- California Towhee



Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Lincoln's Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow (DK & NM)

Golden-crowned Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon & slate-colored)

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES

Purple Finch

House Finch

American Goldfinch

Lesser Goldfinch

BUTTERFLIES, MAMMALS, ETC.

Echo Blue Butterfly

Mylitta Crescent Butterfly

Botta's Pocket Gopher

Eastern Fox Squirrel

Black-tailed Mule Deer

HUMAN CONTRIBUTORS

JC & ER = John Colbert & Erica Rutherford, DK & NM = David Kessler & Nancy Mennel. These

contributors reported at least 55 species of birds from their yards and walks in the neighborhood. In the list above, I've given them credit only for the 18 species not seen by me.

Several wildlife pictures were added to the website this month, and soon will be 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).

March starts the spring migration and breeding season for our birds. Several of the species seen early in the month will be gone by the end, or by mid-April. Some will molt before their departure – with scruffy-looking feathers replaced by sleek, gorgeous plumage. Of those who stay here all year, some (e.g. Song Sparrows) are already seeking mates and defending territories.

Kay Loughman is a retired employ-



Photo by Kay Loughman

Slate-colored Junco (Junco hyemalis hyemalis, male). Unlike our local Oregon junco, the plumage of this dark gray subspecies is more typical of juncos found in northern and eastern parts of the country. Not visible in the photo, this bird has the familiar white outer tail feathers common to all junco species.

ee 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.

NOTE: The photo credit is in error, due to an oversight on the part of the Berkeley Times. The correct photographer is John Colbert.