

North Hills wild life sightings for December 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.

59 BIRD SPECIES

PHEASANTS, QUAIL, and TURKEYS

California Quail (JC & ER, CBC)
Wild Turkey (DKa)

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES

Sharp-shinned Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk (JC & ER)
Red-tailed Hawk

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon
Band-tailed Pigeon
Mourning Dove



OWLS

Western Screech-Owl (CBC)
Great Horned Owl

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird

WOODPECKERS

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

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo (JC & ER, CBC)

CROWS AND JAYS

Steller's Jay
Western Scrub-Jay
American Crow (JC & ER, CBC)
Common Raven

CHICKADEES, TITS

Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Oak Titmouse

LONG-TAILED TITS

Bushtit

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch (CBC)

White-breasted Nuthatch (CBC)

Pygmy Nuthatch (JC & ER)

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper (JC & ER)

WRENS

Pacific Wren (CBC)
House Wren (JC & ER)

Bewick's Wren

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet (CBC)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

Wrentit

GNATCATCHERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (JC & ER)

THRUSHES

Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Varied Thrush (JC & ER, CBC)

MOCKINGBIRDS AND

THRASHERS

California Thrasher

WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing (JC & ER)

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped Warbler (ssp.
Audubon's & Myrtle)

Townsend's Warbler

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS,

TANAGERS, ALLIES

Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Lincoln's Sparrow (JC & ER)

White-throated Sparrow

(DK&NM)

White-crowned Sparrow

Golden-crowned Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Spotted Towhee

California Towhee

Black-headed Grosbeak

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND

ALLIES

Pine Siskin

Lesser Goldfinch



Purple Finch

House Finch



NON-BIRDS

California Newt (DG)

Eastern Fox Squirrel

Northern Raccoon (DKa)

Fox (red/gray?) (DK & NM heard
mating call)

Black-tailed Mule Deer

Geranium Plume Moth

HUMAN CONTRIBUTORS

JC & ER = John Colbert & Erica Rutherford; DK & NM=David Kessler & Nancy Mennel; CBC = Christmas Bird Count team; DG = Dan Grassetto; DKa = Donna Karch.

These contributors collectively reported at least 56 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 23 bird species not seen by me.

Lots of wildlife pictures were added to the website during December. The photo galleries, monthly



Geranium Plume Moth (*Amblyptilla pica*) – Plume moths have modified wings, subdivided into two or three segments, each with a scraggly tuft or plume at the end. The larva of this tiny species are known to eat California natives including Indian paintbrush and bee plant, and may be a pest for garden geraniums.

bird lists cumulated, and pictures of most of the above species are on my website: Wild Life of the North Hills (www.nhwildlife.net).

The birds you see now are likely to be around until early spring. 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.