

**Wildlife of the North Hills:  
Birds, Animals, Butterflies**



Oakland, California  
2005

## About this Booklet

The idea for this 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.

For purposes of this booklet, 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 a complete record of species found: more than 50 additional bird species have been observed here, smaller rodents were included without visual verification, and the compiler lacks the training to identify reptiles, bats or additional butterflies. We would like to include additional species: advice from local experts is welcome and will speed the process.

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  
November 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	

## Animals

Mule Deer	Broad-footed Mole
Coyote	California Vole
Gray Fox	Botta's Pocket Gopher
Northern Raccoon	House Mouse
Striped Skunk	Western Harvest Mouse
Virginia Opossum	North American Deermouse
Ringtail	California Deermouse
Eastern Fox Squirrel	
House Rat	

## Contents (continued)

### Butterflies

Monarch  
Western Tiger Swallowtail  
American Painted Lady  
West Coast Lady

**Bird species seen or heard  
in the north hills:**  
Kay's complete list

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### Acknowledgements

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

John James Audubon  
Wanda Bradley-Smith  
Allan Brooks  
James Coe  
Don Eckelberry  
Louis Agassiz Fuertes  
William MacGillivray  
R. P. Grossenheider  
F. Schuyler Mathews  
John L. Ridgeway  
Walter A. Weber

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#### NOTE ON MEASUREMENTS

Birds: Tip of beak to end of tail

Animals: Nose to end of tail



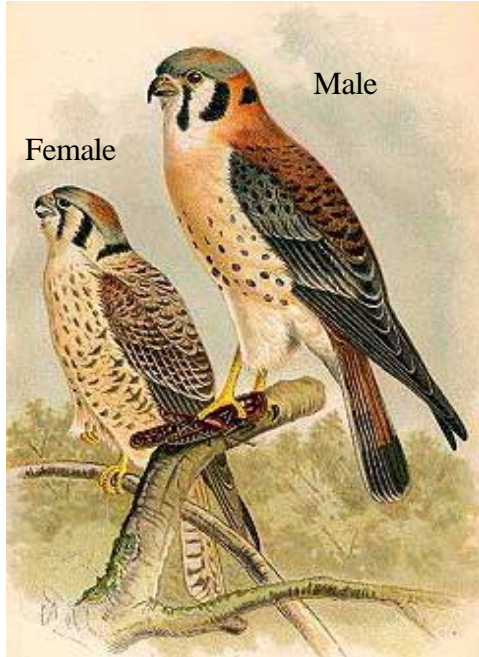
**Turkey Vulture**  
*Cathartus aura*  
26"  
Year-round



**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

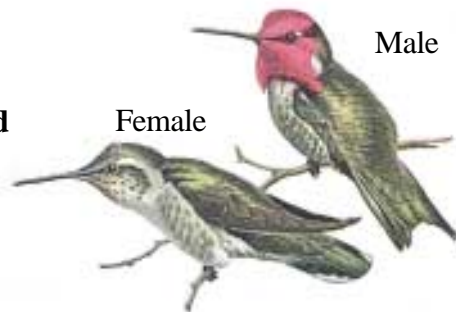


**Anna's Hummingbird**

*Calypte anna*

4"

Year-round





**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



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



**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

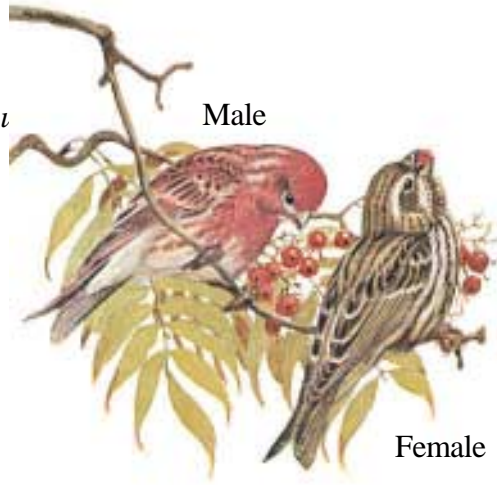


**Fox Sparrow**  
*Passerella iliaca*  
7"  
October-April

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



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



Male

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





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

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



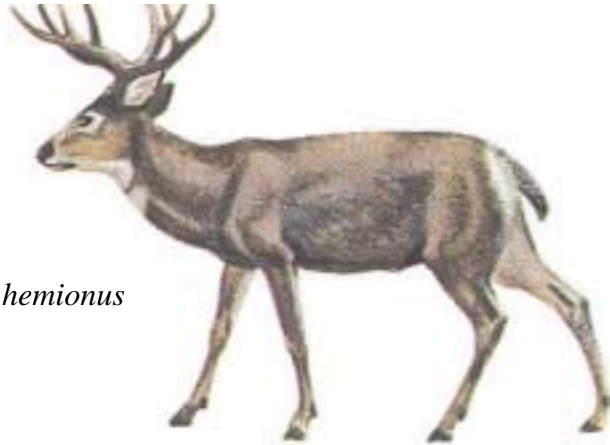
Adult male



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



## Animals



**Mule Deer**  
*Odocoileus hemionus*  
to 78"



**Coyote**  
*Canis latrans*  
43-70"



**Gray Fox**  
*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*  
32-60"



**Striped Skunk**  
*Mephitis mephitis*  
20-28"



**Northern Raccoon**  
*Procyon lotor*  
26-45"



**Ringtail**  
*Bassariscus astutus*  
33-36"

**Virginia Opossum**  
*Didelphis virginiana*  
24-33"

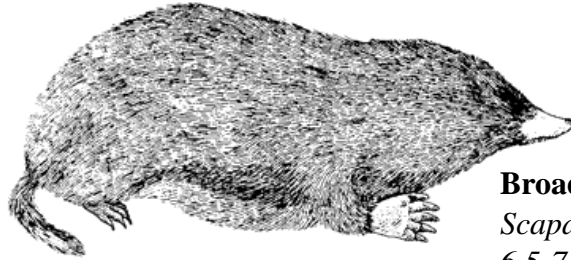


Three color phases  
of Fox Squirrel

**Eastern Fox Squirrel**  
*Sciurus niger*  
25-40"

**House Rat**  
*Rattus rattus*  
16"

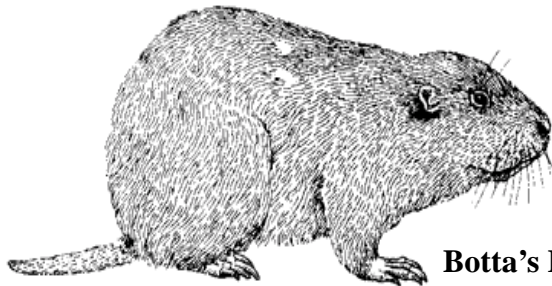




**Broad-footed Mole**  
*Scapanus latimanus*  
6.5-7.5"



**California Vole**  
*Microtus californicus*  
6.3-8.5"



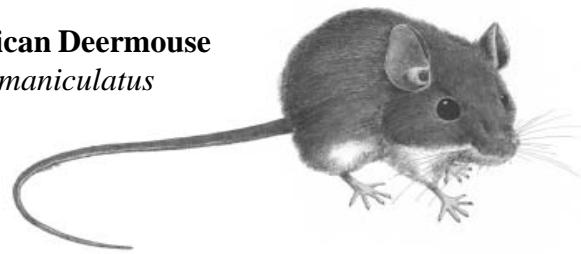
**Botta's Pocket Gopher**  
*Thomomys bottae*  
6.8-10.75"



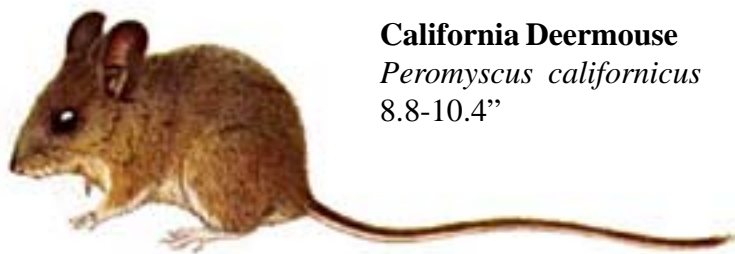
**House Mouse**  
*Mus musculus*  
6.0-7.2"



**Western Harvest Mouse**  
*Reithrodontomys megalotis*  
5.0-6.2"



**North American Deermouse**  
*Peromyscus maniculatus*  
4.8-9.0"



**California Deermouse**  
*Peromyscus californicus*  
8.8-10.4"



# Butterflies

*Shown actual size*

**Monarch**  
*Danaus plexippus*



**Western Tiger Swallowtail**  
*Papilio rutulus*



**American Painted Lady**  
*Vanessa virginiensis*



**West Coast Lady**  
*Vanessa annabella*

**109 Bird Species  
Seen or Heard in the North Hills Area  
June 1993-November 2005**

Double-crested Cormorant	Northern Flicker
Canada Goose	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Snow Goose	Western Wood-Pewee
Great Blue Heron	Willow Flycatcher
Great Egret	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Turkey Vulture	Say's Phoebe
Northern Harrier	Black Phoebe
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Cooper's Hawk	Steller's Jay
Red-shouldered Hawk	Western Scrub-Jay
Red-tailed 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	Bewick's Wren
Rufous Hummingbird	Winter Wren
Belted Kingfisher	House Wren
Acorn Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Bushtit
Nuttall's Woodpecker	Violet-green Swallow
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Hairy Woodpecker	Barn Swallow

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

**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.**