

Birds in Idell Weydemeyer's (IW) Garden, 2007

FINDING THAT BIRD ON MY LIST

I still cannot always find the birds in the right section of birding ID books—and they don't all agree in the order of placement anyway. Therefore the birds in my list are placed in four sections of frequency observed and in alphabetical order within those sections.

| Bird | Section | Page | Bird | Section | Page |
|--|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Blackbird, Redwing | Rarely | 13 | Robin, American | Occasionally | 9 |
| Bushtit | Regularly | 4 | Siskin, Pine | Rarely | 12 |
| Chickadee, Chestnut-backed | Regularly | 4 | Sparrow, Fox | Regularly | 5 |
| Crow, American | Regularly | 2 | Sparrow, Golden-crowned | Regularly | 5 |
| Dove, Mourning | Regularly | 6 | Sparrow, White-crowned | Regularly | 8 |
| Finch, House | Regularly | 5 | Starling, European | Occasionally | 9 |
| Finch, Purple | Occasionally | 10 | Tanager, Western | Rarely | 13 |
| Flicker, Northern | Occasionally | 10 | Thrush, Hermit | Rarely | 12 |
| Goldfinch, American | Regularly | 3 | Thrush, Varied | Rarely | 13 |
| Goldfinch, Lesser | Regularly | 6 | Titmouse, Oak | Regularly | 7 |
| Hawk, Red-Tailed | Regularly | 7 | Towhee, California (was Brown--) | Regularly | 4 |
| Hawk, Sharp shin | Rarely | 13 | Towhee, Spotted (was Rufous--) | Regularly | 7 |
| Hummingbird, Allen's | Regularly | 2 | Turkey, Wild | Regularly | 8 |
| Hummingbird, Anna's | Regularly | 3 | Vireo, Hutton's | Occasionally | 10 |
| Hummingbird, Rufous | Occasionally | 10 | Vulture, Turkey | Regularly | 7 |
| Junco, Dark-eyed, Oregon variant | Regularly | 4 | Warbler, Orange-crowned | Occasionally | 10 |
| Junco-Dark-eyed, Slate-colored variant | Occasionally | 11 | Warbler, Wilson's | Occasionally | 11 |
| Jay, Steller's | Occasionally | 11 | Warbler, Yellow | Rarely | 13 |
| Jay, Western Scrub | Regularly | 7 | Warbler, Yellow-rumped | Regularly | 8 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----|-----------------------|--------------|----|
| Kinglet, Ruby-crowned | Occasionally | 11 | Waxwing, Cedar | Occasionally | 9 |
| Mockingbird, Northern | Regularly | 6 | Woodpecker, Downy | Occasionally | 9 |
| Owl, Great Horned | Regularly | 5 | Woodpecker, Nuttall's | Regularly | 6 |
| Owl, barn | No longer see | 14 | Wren, Bewick's | Regularly | 3 |
| Phoebe, Black | Regularly | 3 | Wrentit | Occasionally | 12 |
| Quail, California | No longer | 14 | Yellowthroat, Common | Rarely | 12 |

Clarification of Key: In Habitat -- In habitat similar to mine; see Botanical Gardens and Bay Area references

IW Sees -- In Idell's garden

Description -- Does not list desert and pinyon pine areas since these are not within the Bay Area

Distinguish -- L = length in inches; WS = wing span in inches

BIRDS I SEE REGULARY

In the winter, a large old almond tree is one of the biggest hang out, and in the spring and summer, the thickets, shrubs and trees better for nesting are popular as well as areas for scratch up food.

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | To Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|---|--|---|---|
| Allen's Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus sasin</i> Nests at IW's | Feb-June in habitat, see daily in season; 2 broods, 2 white eggs, incubated by female 15-22 days | Western hemisphere; Coastal chaparral and riparian low woods; Mostly green with gray-green breast, but male has red throat, rufous sides; Aggressive; when courting, dives from high up in deep J shape, wings make shrill sound in dive; Nests 10-90' above ground in trees & shrubs in Bay Area during March-May. | Tiny -- 3.8" L, 4.3" WS; Almost identical to Rufous hummer but has green back & head cap rather than reddish back & cap |
| American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> Saw regularly after 2001, rarely saw | All year in habitat, daily; 1-2 broods, female incubates 4-6 bluish-green spotted eggs 18 days | Canada to S. U.S. & Baja; In most open habitats in state except deserts and higher mountains; All black, call a distinctive "caaaw" sound; Usually in groups, eats almost everything; Large stick nest built in trees during March-June in Bay Area. | 17.5" L, 39" WS; Smaller than raven; crows have fan shaped tail, seldom glide in air |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | To Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|---|---|---|---|
| before | | | |
| American Goldfinch <i>Carduelis tristis</i> . More now at a winter bird feeder but fewer than Lesser Goldfinch. | In habitat all year, see more in fall & winter; 2 broods, female incubates 4-6 bluish-white eggs 10-12 days | S. Canada to S. US & Baja; Riparian lowlands; Open oak woodlands, orchards, parks & overgrown fields, thistle & weed patches; Tannish yellow in non-breeding season with dark wings and two light brown wing bars, (in breeding season, male is bright yellow with black cap, females brownish yellow); In flocks, eats tree buds, weed seeds (especially thistles) & some insects; Sings po-ta-to-chip. Nests in shrub or dense bush but delays nesting until summer when thistle seeds are ready –late May into August in BA. | 5" L, 9" WS; When flying, both male & female have white spot under wings at base; male is only bird with bright yellow body with black forehead (during breeding season), have yellow brown to gold backs vs Lesser Goldfinch with greenish backs |
| Anna's Hummingbird; <i>Calypte anna</i> Nests at IW's | All year, see daily; 2-3 broods, 2 white eggs incubated by female 16 days | Western hemisphere; In open woods, chaparral and flower gardens west of Sierras; Mostly green with gray breast, male has red cap & throat, female has red throat spots; Flies extremely fast, diving display during mating. They find flowers every month of the year in my garden. Nests low to high in bushes, trees, December-summer. | Tiny -- 4' L, 5.3" WS; Only US hummer with red crown, only California hummer singing a real song when perched, has shorter bill |
| Bewick's Wren <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> Nests at IW's | All year, hear regularly in brush piles & shrubs; 1 (?) brood, 5-7 white flecked eggs incubated by female for 14 days | S. Canada to Mexico; Brushy and wooded areas; Brown upper body, gray underneath, white eyebrow, has wren's tipped up & striped tail but flicks from side to side; Most common wren in area. Male may build dummy nests, attack other wrens or species nesting nearby. Nests in cavity, brush piles, crevices, bulky mass of sticks, chips, leaves, etc. during April & May in BA. May nest in birdhouse. | 5.25" L, 7" WS; Fairly large and slender wren, white eyebrow, white corners on tail, whiter below than house wren |
| Black Phoebe <i>Sayornis nigricans</i> | All year (attracted to IW's frog ponds) but few in nesting season; 2-3 broods, 4 white eggs | Southwestern U.S.(mostly west of Sierra's) to N. Argentina; Along streams & ponds with marshy vegetation; Black head with a slight crest, gray body, white belly. Mostly catches flies on the wing although in winter, picks bugs on ground too. Nests on buildings, bridges, | 7" L, 11" WS; Constantly wags tail when perched, Dark Eyed Junco feeds mostly on the ground & has conical bill & rufous color on |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | To Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | incubated by female 15-17 days | cliffs April-June in BA | flanks |
| Bushtit <i>Psaltriparus minimus</i> Nests at IW's | All year, see daily, & in winter, in large flocks; 2 broods, both incubate 5-7 white eggs for 12 days | SW British Columbia to Guatemala; In brushy or open woods, chaparral, residential shrubbery; Brown head, gray upper body, white under; Tiny birds in flocks of 10-30, constantly twittering and combing through shrubs and trees all day, eat tiny insects. Sock-like, hanging nest in March-May in BA. Pairs disturbed during nest building to incubation will desert, change mates and build again. | Tiny -- 4.5"L, 6" WS; Distinctive for size and flocking behavior, long tail, short bill, easy to move close enough to see clearly |
| California Towhee <i>Pipilo crissalis</i> (was Brown Towhee) Nests at IW's | All year, see daily, hear constant 'chips'; 2-3 broods, 3 bluish-white eggs with brown blotches, female incubates | SW Oregon to Baja; West of Sierras; Open woodlands, and dense brushy areas, chaparral, gardens; Overall brown with orange under tail; Forages on ground, likes brush piles, male & female keep in close contact by calling when foraging, strongly territorial; Nest low to ground (2-12 feet) in bushes & small trees, makes bulky deep cup from twigs during April-August in BA | 9" L;11.5" WS; Looks like a brown robin without the orange breast |
| Chestnut-backed Chickadee <i>Poecile rufescens</i> | In habitat all year, see more in fall and winter; (?) broods, 6-7 white dotted eggs for 15 days | Western N. America; In moist coastal slopes and forests of oak, pine and fir, cultivated areas with trees; In BA, not reddish but more brownish back and flanks, black cap and chin; white face; Seen with winter flocks of Bushtits & Ruby Crowned Kinglet flocks, calls chickadee-dee-dee. Cavity nester (usually lower than 10 feet) in April & May in BA, may nest in loose colonies as close as 150 feet apart; may nest in birdhouse. | 4.75"L, 7.5" WS; Bigger than Bush Tits, have black caps, rufous sides |
| Dark-eyed Junco Oregon sub species <i>Junco hyemalis</i> | Daily much of year but few in summer. 2 broods, one at higher elevation, 3-5 eggs whitish-blue, brown dots incubated by | Alaska & SW Canada to Baja, In Rockies to Idaho & Wyoming; In under-story of open forests & woodlands and in areas with brush & open ground; Dark hood, gray wings, reddish-brown on back and under wings, gray breast; Forages on open ground. Breeds in forested areas and in large parks April-June in BA, nests in shallow | 6.3" L, 9.3" WS; Distinctive hood, (male's is black, female gray), has rufous back and sides unlike all gray sides on Slate-colored one |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | To Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|--|--|--|
| | female for 12-13 days | depression with overhead protection | |
| Fox Sparrow, Sooty version (Pacific) <i>Passerella iliaca</i> | BG says Oct thru Ap See scratching under shrubs | Alaska, Canada, W & C U.S.; Dense brushy patches & thickets within woodlands, especially willow areas; Dark brown upper area, brownish spots on chest, whitish lower belly; Often mix with other sparrows in groups, scratches vigorously in litter under bushes like towhees. Breeds on high mountain slopes. | 7" L, 10.5" WS; Larger than House sparrow, has spotted -streaked breast, White and Gold crowned have plain breasts; White Crowned has crown streak |
| Gold-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia atricappila</i> | In habitat Oct-May; See by thick shrubs, brushy areas, scratching for seeds | NW N. America, winters throughout Pacific states; Dense brush & weedy areas but not as thick shrubs as for White Crowned; Grayish with gray-brown breast, black and brown wings with two white wing bars, breeding males with black cap to eyes and yellow fore-crown. Call is "oh dear me". Summers/breeds Canada-Alaska. | 7.3" L, 9.5" W; No streaks on breast, similar to but more gray overall than White Crowned no white on head |
| Great Horned Owl <i>Bubo virginianus</i> Nests on hill top across from IW's garden | All year, hear nightly mostly in winter/early spring; 1 brood, 2-3 dull white eggs, mostly female sits for 28-35 days | N. America to Tierra del Fuego; In almost all habitats; Grayish-brown with stripes on chest, large head; Roosts in trees (near my garden), hunts at night in woods & fields for medium-sized mammals such as rabbits and skunks; Nests in old trees February-June in BA, At IW's, one smashed into a window, was rehabed by Lindsey Museum then released back by garden. | Large -- 22" L, 44" WS; Mostly identify by deep hooting call of male, mating calls occur in winter after dusk and before dawn. |
| House Finch <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i> Nests at IW's | In habitat all year, see daily but less frequently in summer; 2 broods, 4-5 pale blue-green eggs with black dots, incubated by female for 12-14 days | British Columbia to S Mexico; Brushy & wooded areas, suburbs, cities; Male has dark red forehead strip, breast & rump, both are gray-brown with streaked flanks and two white wing bars; Mostly in small flocks, eats seeds, fruit & sometimes insects. Typically nests in dense foliage near buildings, also in cavities in late April-mid Aug in BA. Use same nest several years. May nest in birdhouse. | 6" L, 9.5" WS; Male is distinctive red, both have relatively long tails, short bills |
| Lesser Goldfinch | In habitat all year, | Western U.S. to Peru; Patchy open areas, brush, woods, | Small; 4.5" L, 8" WS; White |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | To Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|---|---|--|--|
| <i>Carduelis psaltria</i> Nestled at IW's in 2007 | see more in winter; Maybe 2 broods, female incubates 4-5 pale blue eggs for 12 days | gardens; Olive green back, dark wings, bright yellow under parts in male and lighter in female, male has black cap; In flock in same or dryer habitat than American. Water important for both goldfinches in dry season; Nests on outer portion of small tree or shrub, in cup nests in spring & early summer, unlike American Goldfinch (other source says Lesser goldfinch is late nester). Songs mimic many other birds. | under wing patch in flight; females have no contrast between back & rump, Lesser has green back and dark rump, American is larger & has gold back, gold rump |
| Morning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i> | All year, see daily; 2-3 or more broods, 2 white eggs, both incubate 14 days | Alaska & Canada to Panama; Woodlands, grasslands & brushy areas; Gray and brown; Usually in small groups, forages on open ground for seeds, grains & grit, call is a soft cooing; Builds loose stick nest in trees, shrubs and on buildings late March-mid August in BA; May nest on platform. | 12" L, 18" WS; Slender dove with long tail, local tame pigeons seen occasionally in flocks are white and circle without landing. |
| Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> Nests at IW's | All year, see daily; 2+ broods, female incubates 3-5 eggs for 12-13 days | S. Canada to Mexico & W. Indies; Open areas with scattered bushes & trees, in farms, towns; Gray back, white under, black wings with two white wing bars; Feeds on insects and fruit, highly territorial, expert mimic, sings lots, especially at night in the spring which yields angry letter to the local wildlife columnist (Gary Bogue); Constantly eating MY fruit. Nests April into early July in BA in small tree or shrub 1-40 ft up, cup from twigs, grass leaves; New nest for each brood | 10" L, 14" WS; Long tail, defends fruit trees and shrubs from other birds |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker <i>Picoides nuttallii</i> | In habitat all year; see on large apple; (?) broods, 3-6 eggs, incubated by both for 14 days, both feed young | California to NW Baja; In oak woodlands, deciduous forests & cultivated trees; Black back with white stripes, whitish breast with some black spots on sides, male with red spot on hind crown of head; Goes up and down branches, also eats insects on ground, some seeds & wild fruit; Cavity nester, new one used each year; may nest in birdhouse. | 7.5" L, 13" WS; Black back with white bars, blackish spots under near wing in flight, both Hairy & Downy have white backs and no black spots under wings in flight |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | To Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|---|---|---|
| Oak Titmouse <i>Baeolophus inornatus</i> Nests at IW's | In habitat all year, see regularly; (?) broods, female incubates 6-8 creamy speckled eggs for 14-16 days | W. U.S.; Common in oaks, other open woodlands, cultivated tree areas; Grayish upper feathers, lighter gray lower, crest on head; Eats seeds & insects, can call chick-a-dee-dee like the Chick a Dee. Usually mate for life. Cavity nester 2-80 feet above ground in April & May in BA. May nest in birdhouse within 120 feet of other. | 5.75" L, 9" WS; Bushtits are smaller; Hutton's Verio has white wing bars; only bird of this size with a crest |
| Spotted Towhee (was Rufous-Sided) <i>Pipilo maculatus</i> Nests at IW's | Year round, see on ground & in tall, thick shrubs by willows; 2 broods, female incubates 3-4 eggs for 12-13 days | Most of west, into Rockies and some of plains (Southern Canada to Guatemala) Brushy habitats, edges, clearings. Orange sides, black speckled wings, dark gray (female) to black (male) hood on head, white breast; Solitary, scratches vigorously in leaf litter on ground, nests in low bush, brush pile or on ground late April into July in BA. | 8.5 L, 10.5 WS; American Robin has orange breast & is bigger, Black Headed Grosbeak has larger bill, shorter tail & orange chest. |
| Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> Nests in trees nearby IW's garden | All year in habitat; 1 (?) brood, 2-3 whitish eggs some blotching, incubated by female 28-35 days, fly at 6 weeks | Alaska, Canada to Panama; Mixed woodlands & grasslands; Brown body, lighter underneath, red tail, streaked belly band; in flight, light brown under wings with black top edge; Perches looking for small mammals, solitary; Nests in tall trees March-May in BA with open feeding areas nearby. "Screams" mostly when defending nest or during courtship. | 19" L 49" WS; Both Red-shouldered Hawk and Coopers hawk have more rufous body coloring and dark stripes under tail. |
| Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i> | All year, flies through daily around mid-day and again late afternoon | S. Canada to Cape Horn (migratory in N.); Black with red bare head; Soars overhead on thermals looking for carrion, roosts in trees, nests on ground; At IW's, circles fairly low around mid day. | Very large -- 26" L, 67" WS. |
| Western Scrub Jay <i>Aphelocoma californica</i> Nests at IW's | All year, see daily. 1 brood, female incubates 3-6 greenish spotted eggs for 15-17 days. | W. U.S. to S. Mexico, also Florida; Coastal brushy areas, oak woodlands, chaparral, suburbs; Blue wings and tail plus blue cap on head and around neck, gray back, light breast; Eats acorns mostly but also seeds, fruit, insects, baby birds. Pokes holes in fruit on IW's trees and screams a lot. Bulky stick nest in shrubs, small conifers. | 11.5" L, 15.5" WS; Steller's Jay has blackish upper body & black crest |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | To Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|---|---|---|
| White-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> | In habitat Sept- April See in trees, shrubs | Across Canada to Alaska, through W U.S., winters W & S U.S. & Cuba; Patchy brushy and weedy areas, edges of thickets & woodlands; Mostly gray with light brown rump & streaky brown back, white throat, black and white streaks on head on crown, reddish-brown wings with two white wing bars; Ground feeder, travels in flocks. Most migrate but the "Nuttall's subspecies lives and breeds in narrow strip of the fog belt along the coast April-July. | 7" L, 9.5" WS; Breast plain, not speckled; has black and white stripes on head whereas Gold Crowned has goldish brown thick crown |
| Wild Turkey <i>Meleagis gallopavo</i> Nests in gully adjoining IW | Common now in Bay Area first here in fall 2004; 1 brood 8-15 buffy, spotted eggs, female on nest 28 days; most young die here | Open woodlands, often seen foraging by walking along roads or in fields & grasslands; Bay Area turkey has a more brown and yellow body (rather than greenish black); Roost in trees at night; seldom fly; timid, gobbles loudly during mating season; Nests on dry ground often under bush or log, male polygamous | Very large -- 37"- 46" L, 50"- '60" WS, constant calling in spring |
| Yellow Rumped Warbler (was Audubon's Warbler) <i>Dendroica coronata</i> | Oct-Mar, see in almond & eucalyptus trees, few in 2007 | Western U.S., Canada; (goes from Alaska to Panama) Winters in open brushy habitats and edges, oak woods, cultivated areas; Gray - brown bird with bright yellow throat, flanks and rump, gray (female) or yellow (male) head, two white wing bars. Often in flocks; Breeds in coniferous forests. | 5.5 L, 9.25 WS; Townsend's Warbler has mostly yellow face with black cheeks & is slightly smaller |

BIRDS I SEE OCCASIONALLY:

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat IW Sees Eggs | Range, Habitat & Description | Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|---|--|--|
| American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i> | All year in habitat. See mostly in winter (I have no watered lawn for worms). 2 broods, female incubates 4 light blue eggs for 11-16 days | Alaska, Canada to S. Mexico; Open woodlands, fields, lawns; Dark gray above, red breast (male bright red, female a rusty orange); Hops along checking for earth worms, eats berries & eats MY fruit, especially cherries; Builds nests in trees shrubs or on buildings up 10-20 feet during April through June in BA. Nest is a mix of grasses, string, cloth, and mud. | 10" L, 14" WS; Orange breast |
| Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i> | In habitat Nov through late winter (BA book says all year) | Alaska, Canada, to South Central U.S., winters from S. Canada to Panama; In areas of trees, shrubs & orchards with berries; Beautiful reddish brown, with drooping crown, black mask, yellow on tail tip, red bar on wings; Move in flocks following ripening berries, also eat flying insects | 7.25" L, 12" WS; Highly distinctive coloration |
| Downy Woodpecker <i>Picoides pubescens</i> | In habitat all year, see on large apple tree; 1 brood, 4-5 white eggs incubated by both 11-13 days | Alaska, Canada to S U.S.; In woods, especially in riparian areas, in willows, orchards, shade trees; Black wings, lower back & tail, black stripes on head, rest of body is white, males have red spot on head; Hops about jerkily on branches; Insects main food, likes suet; Cavity nester, may use nest box. | 6.75" L, 12" WS; Smallest woodpecker, bill half as long as head, (Hairy has bill as long as head) has white patch on back (Nutall's has black back with white stripes) |
| European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | All year in habitat, I see mostly perching on wires in driveway | Eurasia, N. Africa, N. America (introduced); City parks, farms and suburbs; In winter looks like an iridescent green & black blackbird with white speckles; Mostly in large flocks year around; Forage on ground for grubs, worms, insects, seeds and fruit on trees; Aggressive bird, can be a pest when roosts in large flocks & takes grain from fields, pushes out native birds; Is food source for hawks. | 8.5" L, 16" WS; In spring and summer, a purplish black more like a blackbird but has shorter tail than blackbird and a yellow bill |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat IW Sees Eggs | Range, Habitat & Description | Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|---|--|--|
| Hutton's Vireo <i>Vireo huttoni</i> | In habitat all year; 2 broods, 4 eggs incubated by pair 14-16 days | SW. British Columbia to Guatemala; In live oak woods, streamside woods, coastal coniferous forests and cultivated areas; Olive green color, two light stripes (bars) on grayish-black wings; Tends to flock with other small songbirds. Nests 6-60 feet up, deep hanging cup March through June in BA. | 5" L, 8" WS; Heavier than Ruby Crowned Kinglet, thicker bill, no black bar on wings after two white bars, more gray than Orange crowned warbler (which has yellow undertail) |
| Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i> (Red Shafted Flicker) | In habitat all year; Oct-Apr most common; 1 brood, 6-8 white eggs, incubated by both for 11-12 days | Alaska, Canada & south to Nicaragua; In wooded areas with openings, often around buildings, orchards, parks; Brown speckled chest, striped back, gray head, male has with red strip under eye; Eats ants & other insects and preen with squashed ants to rid self of parasites. Cavity nester, may use birdhouse. | 12" L", WS 20"; Orange under wings in flight, white rump; Feeds more on ground than other woodpeckers |
| Orange-crowned Warbler <i>Vermivora celata</i> | BG says Mar-July; BA says all year but most in Ap-Dec; 4-5 glossy creamy white speckled eggs for 12-14 days | Alaska, Canada, W. U.S., winters to Guatemala; Dense weedy and brushy areas and gardens; Light brown above, greenish yellow below with streaks on breast, lightish-colored broken eye ring, orange crown rarely seen, moves quickly. Nests on ground or up to 3 ft above in shrubs, tangles, small well hidden cup in April-June in BA. | 5" L, 7.25" WS, More drab than Wilson's Warbler (male has black cap) & Yellow Warbler (male has red streaks on breast), brighter than Hutton's Verio (is more gray) |
| Purple Finch <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> (First time saw--or recognized--in 2007) | In habitat all year; 2 broods, 4-5 pale greenish blue eggs incubated by both for 13 days | Canada to N. Baja; Oak, & mixed oak woodlands, riparian areas, confers & in winter, bushes; Male has extensive rose-red color on head, back and wings, female is brown with brown streaks on white belly, white eyebrow; Seed eater but also tree buds & blooms, insects in spring, & fruit later; Nest in conifer branch far from trunk | 6" L, 10" WS, Male has more red than House Finch, female house finch has no whitish eyebrow |
| Rufus Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus rufus</i> | Feb-May most common, see migrating through | NW. N. America, winters in Mexico; Urban and chaparral areas; Male with rusty back and side, female green with rufous breast & reddish throat spot, both with black wings; | Small; 3.75" L, 4.5" WS; Only hummingbird male that is mostly reddish brown |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat IW Sees Eggs | Range, Habitat & Description | Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|--|---|---|
| | | In high, circular display flights, wings make buzzy trill., | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus calendula</i> | In habitat October through April | Canada, Alaska, W. U.S., winters in BA & to Guatemala; Wooded and brushy areas; Gray brown or olive buff body, black wing bar next to white stripe, hidden ruby crown in males; Heard more than seen, feeds on tiny insects so not at feeders. Breeds out of area in subalpine coniferous forests. | Small, 4.25" L, 7.5" WS; Tiny bill, plump body, wing flicking behavior and short tail distinguish it from warblers; Gold Crowned Kinglet has black crown patch & white eyebrow; Orange Crowned warbler has no wing bars |
| Dark Eyed Junco, Slate Colored variant <i>Junco hyemalis</i> | In winter at IW's | Northern & Eastern form, occasionally in west, winters in patchy wooded areas, forages on open ground. Blackish hood on head and chest, gray back, white belly area; Scratches ground for invertebrates, eats seeds & berries, will visit feeders. | 6.25" L, 9.25" WS; Gray body, black hood, does not have rufous sides like Oregon Junco |
| Steller's Jay <i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i> ('07 first time) at IW's. | In habitat all year, at IW's at suet in winter; 1 brood, female incubates 4 pale green/blue eggs for 16 days | Washington-Montana, to Mexico & Texas. In conifer and evergreen forests, comes to feeders in winter. Deep blue body, black crest and neck; for insects, small vertebrates, nuts, berries, other birds' eggs. Stick & twig nest built in conifers 8-40 feet up in April-August. | 11.5" L, WS 19" Solid color body and crest distinguishes from Scrub Jay |
| Wilson's Warbler <i>Wilsonii pusilla</i> | March-October; 1 brood of 4-6 white eggs, female incubates 10-13 days | Alaska, Canada, W. & NE. U.S., winters Mexico to Panama; In brushy woods with dense under story near water, willow & alder areas, also backyards; Light olive-yellow brown above (male with black cap), yellow face, bright yellow underneath; Raises tail & flips it about, forages on lower foliage near ground, will fly to catch flying insects. Nests on ground, low shrub or thicket late April-June in BA. | 4.75"L, 7" WS; Very small long tailed warbler; Orange Crowned has greener feathers and no black cap; yellow warbler (male) has breast with red streaks and no cap; Hutton's Verio is more gray and has white wing bars |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat IW Sees Eggs | Range, Habitat & Description | Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|---|---|--|
| Wrenit <i>Chamaea fasciata</i> | All year in habitat Secretive so hard to see. 2 broods, both incubate 4 pale greenish-blue eggs 16 days | Oregon to N. Baja; In dense chaparral and coastal scrub in BA; Medium brown overall, lighter underneath, fatter bird, large head, long tail; Heard more than seen, sings bouncy song, likes insects & seeds; Nests in coastal sage and coyote brush thickets 1-15 feet off ground April-July in BA, a deep cup nest with bark & lichens outside. Mate for life, 2 acre territory. | 6.5" L, 7" WS; Similar to wrens & Titmouse but no wren-like stripes, nor streaked breast or throat |

BIRDS I SEE RARELY

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> | In habitat all year in BA | Canada to S. Mexico, winters S. U.S. to W. Indies, Panama; Thickets, weedy, brushy and marshy areas, nearly always low & wet; Olive upper side, yellow throat and under tail, male has striking black mask with white top outline; Forages close to or on the ground; Nests late April-early June in BA | 5" L, 6.8" WS; Female looks like Wilson's Warbler except that belly is white, not yellow, Yellowthroat male has black mask vs Wilson's Warbler's black cap |
| Hermit Thrush <i>Catharus guttatus</i> | In habitat mostly Oct-Apr | Alaska, Canada, W. & NE. U.S., winters U.S. to El Salvador; In brushy under-story of pine and oak woods, in winter in thickets & parks; Brown body with black spots on brownish breast, white belly, reddish brown tail; Forages for insects and berries on ground or in trees, interesting singer, last one at night. Does not breed in this area. | 6.75" L, 11.5" WS; Often in drier & brushier areas than other thrushes, looks like small juvenile robin with speckled breast (but no orange color) |
| Pine Siskin <i>Carduelis pinus</i> 2004 was a big year | In habitat Sept-May | S. Canada to S. U.S., many winter in Mexico; Open forests; cooler woodlands, weedy areas, Uniform light brown with streaking, male and female have yellow blotch on wings, male brighter yellow; Eats buds, seeds of pines, | 5" L, 9.5" WS |

| Bird; Unusual Occurrence; Nesting at IW's | In Habitat; IW Sees; Eggs | Range, Habitat, & Description | Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|--|---|--|--|
| | | alders & birches plus small insects; in flocks sometimes with finches | |
| Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> | In habit all year near water; seen daily about 1/2 mile away, sometimes at IW's | Canada to W. Indies, Costa Rica; Brushy & marshy areas, cultivated areas; Male black with red wing tops, female brown with rufous edged feathers, dense streaks across belly; Congregates in large flocks, eats seeds & invertebrates | 8.75" L, 14" WS; Females look like large sparrow, male unmistakable with red wing area |
| Sharp Shin Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i> | In habitat Sept-Apr (BG), BA says all yr | Tree line in Alaska, Canada to N. Argentina; In open woods, edges; Adults red speckled under breast and wing with dark wing bars and tail stripes, body grayish above; Hangs around bird feeders, preys on small birds up to the size of pigeons, also mammals: Solitary, nests in tall trees. | 16" L, 31" WS; Perch a lot; about the size of a jay, snappy wing beats |
| Varied Thrush <i>Ixoreus naevius</i> Not seen here before | Oct-March. Here in winter 06-07 in unusual numbers because of colder winter further north | Alaska to northern Baja, Moist coniferous & deciduous forests with dense under story. Orange throat & breast, gray/black on top of head, back and breast band. Forages on ground for sowbugs, insects, snails, worms, berries, weed seeds, acorns. | 9.5 L, 16"WS, Unusual orange color on most of body |
| Western Tanager <i>Piranga ludoviciana</i> | In habitat in Apr-June (CC info) BG says May | N. America, winters in W. Mexico to Costa Rica; In coniferous and deciduous woods; Yellow body, black or gray back, dark wings with one yellow and one white wing bar; male has red head when breeding; Eats insects, and larvae on leaves, solitary | 7.25" L, 11.5" WS; Distinctive yellow body with black back and wings |
| Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i> | Summer | Alaska, Canada, to Peru, winters Mexico to Peru; Wet brushy habitat, suburban shrubbery, orchards; Yellowish brown above, bright yellow breast, yellow tail spots and male has reddish streaks on breast; Forages at middle height in trees. | 5" L, 8" WS; Brightest yellow of warblers, has yellow spots on tail |

BIRDS I NO LONGER SEE:

| Bird | In Habitat | Range, Habitat, & Description | To Distinguish from Similar Birds |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i> | Year round in habitat | Nearly worldwide; Woodlands, farms, towns, cliffs; Light brown and gray with pale heart shaped face, white underneath; Neighbor's shed taken down so roost and main source of mice gone, hunted mice in open spaces in my garden at night; does not hoot but has low wheezy screech | 16" L, 42" WS |
| California Quail <i>Callipepla californica</i> | All year in good habitat | British Columbia to Baja; Coastal chaparral, along roadsides, fields and field edges; Gray body, speckled brown on belly, brown and white stripes on sides, topknots; In small covey, scratch noisily in underbrush, feeds on seeds & leaves; Cats, dogs and coyotes have removed the quail. | 10" L, 14" WS; Distinctive shape and top knot, in coveys |
| Swallows | | Migrated through in spring for several years | |

REFERENCES

Hard Copy Sources mostly on Bird Identification, Behavior, and Habitat:

Birds of North America; Kaufman Focus Guides, Houghton Mifflin Company; Kaufman; 2000

Birds of Northern California, Fix & Bezener, 2000

Birds of San Francisco & the Bay Area; Lone Pine Press; Fisher & Morlan; 1996

Birds of the U.C. Botanical Garden flyer from the U.C. Botanical Garden (habitat similar to mine but is a lot larger, has a riparian area, more trees and fog.

Common Backyard Birds of Contra Costa County, flyer from Wild Birds Unlimited

Handbook of California Birds; Naturegraph Publishers; Brown, Weston & Buzzell; 1973 (nice summary of plumage cycle, bills, feet, flight patterns, food foraging behavior, courtship, migration, sounds and California habitats)

The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America; Chanticleer Press & Alfred A. Knopf; Silby; 2003

Western Birds; Peterson Field Guides, Houghton Mifflin; Peterson; 1990

Sibley's Birding Basics, Alfred A Knopf, Sibley, 2002

The Birders Handbook, A Field Guide to The Natural History of North American Birds, Ehrlich, Dobkin & Wheye, Simon & Schuster, 1988

Western Birds' Nest, Peterson Field Guides, Harrison, Houghton Mifflin Company 1979

The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds, Kress, Cornell University Press, 2006

Online Resources mostly on Bird Identification, Behavior, and Habitat:

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/>

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/stanfordbirds/>

<http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~jmorlan/> has a large list of resources so I am not repeating them here.

<http://www.blkittiwake.com>

Some sections of Wikipedia are excellent.

Online Resources for Plants Attractive to Birds:

- Las Pilitas Nursery <http://www.laspilitas.com/bird.htm>
Mostly Natives <http://www.mostlynatives.com/guide.htm>
Theodore Payne Foundation <http://www.theodorepayne.org/>
Tree of Life Wholesale Nursery <http://smslrwma.org/nativeplanting/pdfs/NativesToPlantForWildlifeByTOL.pdf>
- Marin County Stormwater PPP <http://www.mcstoppp.org/nurseries.htm>
- Marin CNPS <http://www.marin.cc.ca.us/cnps/birds.html>
San Diego CNPS <http://smslrwma.org/nativeplanting/pdfs/DesignwPlantsAttractBirds.pdf>
Santa Clara CNPS <http://www.stanford.edu/~rawlings/blazcon.htm>

Others

See the [Bringing Back the Natives Tour](#) website

California Audubon http://www.audubon-ca.org/bird_faqs.htm

The Complete Book of Birdhouse construction for Woodworkers, Dover Publications, Campbell, 1984