

OAK WOODLAND CONTINUED



California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

- Dark blue with a pale white underside, California scrub jays' round crestless head

sets them apart from Steller's jays

- Fiercely intelligent and inquisitive, these jays have a mischievous streak. They commonly steal acorns stored by other birds.



Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)

- These birds are iridescent blue with a striking rust-orange vest.

• Western bluebirds are cavity nesters, meaning they nest in holes in dead trees.

• We have set up bird boxes to simulate ideal nesting places for these birds here and have since seen our local population thrive!

• Look for western bluebirds perched on low hanging branches throughout the preserve.



Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*)

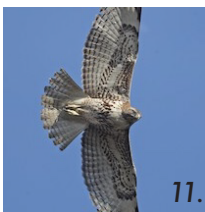
- Acorn woodpeckers are expert acorn collectors.

• Family groups control territory centered around food sources and "granary trees": dead trees with drilled holes to store acorns.

• These birds are easily identified by their clown-like features, a white and black face with a red cap

• You can find these woodpeckers throughout the park in oak trees. Listen for the soft "knock knock" of them drilling into the oaks.

IN THE SKY



Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

- Red-tailed hawks are the most common hawk in North America

• They are dark brown on top with white undersides and a tail that is light in color below and cinnamon-red above

• Mammals make up the bulk of most red-tailed hawk meals, but they also eat birds, reptiles, and carrion



Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

- Turkey vultures are a common sight in the sky above Byrne

• They ride thermals in the sky and use their keen sense of smell to find fresh carcasses

• Commonly mistaken for hawks, turkey vultures are larger and their wings have a pale underside. Instead of laying flat their wings are raised in a V and they wobble slightly as they circle in the sky.

At Grassroots Ecology our mission is to engage and educate the public to restore local ecosystems. Learn more on our website at grassrootsecology.org

Photo Source:

Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology: 1. ML26440601 2. ML24967121 3. ML32761361 4. ML98287371 5. ML25757481 6. ML103120351 7. ML35711451 8. ML69371861 9. ML50023121 10. ML35712911 11. ML127495881 12. ML44093901

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BIRDS OF BYRNE PRESERVE



"There is an unreasonable joy to be had from the observation of small birds going about their bright, oblivious business"

- Grant Hutchison



Byrne Preserve is an 88 acre open space preserve and biodiversity hotspot nestled in the heart of Silicon Valley. Its preservation as an open space and the careful restoration of its habitats have provided a sanctuary for native and migratory birds to flourish.

As you explore, let this pocket guide introduce you to some of the more common birds found within the preserve. Keep your eyes and ears open, you never know what you may see!

SCRUB COMMUNITIES



Spotted Towhee
(*Pipilo maculatus*)

- One of the most distinctive features of the spotted towhee are its

blood-red eyes. Males are jet black (females are grayish brown), with reddish-brown flanks, and wings striped white. While in flight, look for white corners on a black tail.

- They can be found throughout all habitat types across the preserve.



Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*)

- The chestnut-backed chickadee wears a black

and white mask, and their back is a rich chestnut color.

• This highly active and acrobatic bird hardly sits still and is one of the few birds that can hang upside down! Look for it throughout the preserve flitting from branch to branch, or hanging onto fencing or tree bark.

Listen for its call: "Chickadee, chicka-chicka-dee-dee"



California Quail
(*Callipepla californica*)

- California's state bird is an iconic species found throughout the states' oak

savanna, woodland, and chaparral habitats, and is easily identified by its distinctive forward-drooping head plume. On your walks listen for its distinctive call of "chi-ca-go".

- California quails often combine broods after hatching with all the parents caring for the combined young of several pairs
- You can most commonly observe quail in the parking lot of the preserve or along the streets of the surrounding communities



Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*)

- Wrentits live in areas of dense vegetation making them challenging to spot

due to their brownish-gray coloration. Be on the lookout for piercing white eyes and an erect tail.

- On the other hand, hearing a wrentit is easy. Their characteristic bouncing-ball song is a classic sound of coastal scrub and woodland habitats along the West Coast.

RIPARIAN HABITATS



Dark-eyed Junco
(*Junco hyemalis*)

- This species of sparrow is one of the most widespread birds in North

America. You will see it foraging on the ground in pairs, often along the edge of

(dark-eyed junco continued)
roads in the oak and riparian woodland within the preserve.

- They have a dark head, a warm brown back and rust-colored flanks. Look for a pink bill and white outer tail feathers while in flight.



Wilson's Warbler
(*Wilsonia pusilla*)

- One of the smallest warblers in the United States, Wilson's warblers

are bright yellow and the males have a distinctive black cap (Remember: President Wilson wore a top hat).

- Look for them in shrubby tangles along streams and foraging along the ground in forested edges. These warblers are always on the go and flit between the ground and branches. Keep an ear out for their rapid song.

OAK WOODLAND



Steller's Jay
(*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

- Steller's jays are dark blue with a crested black head. These jays are the

only crested jay west of the Rocky Mountains.

- You may hear their harsh, scolding calls from high in the canopy.
- These jays have incredible spatial memories and store surplus food in caches throughout their territory. They often return to these caches to reorganize and eat the stored food during winter.