

Virtual Project Crystal

Field Guide to Birds



Anna's Hummingbird

A common hummingbird found in chaparral, woods, and flower gardens.
Wingspan: 5.25 in.
Diet: Uses tongue for nectar and also eats small bugs.
Voice: A very high, sharp "stt.".
Fun Fact: Hummingbirds can flap their wings 80 - 200 times in one second.
Occurrence: Year-round.



Allen's Hummingbird

A small hummingbird found from southwest Oregon to Southern California along the coast in chaparral, open woods, and suburbs.
Wingspan: 4 in.
Diet: Uses tongue for nectar and also eats small bugs.
Voice: Sharp chirps and buzzes.
Fun Fact: Hummingbirds can fly backwards, upside down and hover in one place.
Occurrence: Year-round.



House Finch

A common finch in suburbs and brushy, wooded areas.
Wingspan: 9.5 in.
Diet: Seeds and fruit.
Voice: A sweet varied warble with steady tempo.
Fun Fact: Found in small flocks. Males have red coloration, while females are brown.
Occurrence: Year-round.



Wrentit

A common bird found in dense shrub areas.
Wingspan: 7 in.
Diet: Insects and seeds.
Voice: Clear popping whistles followed by an accelerating bouncing ball.
Fun Fact: Rarely ever seen, Wrentits are usually only heard.
Occurrence: Year-round.



Yellow-Rumped Warbler

A common warbler, seen in areas with willow trees. Wingspan: 9.25 in.
Diet: Eats winter berries and flies out from cover to hunt for insects.
Voice: "sidl sidl sidl seedl seedl seedl seedl"
Fun Fact: Yellow-rumped Warblers are easily spotted while flying away due to their bright yellow rump. Occurrence: Fall/Winter.



Common Yellowthroat

A warbler usually seen in brushy, wet areas. Wingspan: 6.75 in.
Diet: Insects and spiders that live on leaves. Voice: "witchety-witchety-witchety."
Fun Fact: The Common Yellowthroat was one of the first bird species to be catalogued from the New World in 1776.
Occurrence: Year-round.



White Crowned Sparrow

A common winter visitor to Southern California, this small sparrow migrates from as far north as Alaska.
Wingspan: 7 in.
Diet: Insects and seeds. Voice: Buzzy song.
Fun Fact: Alaskan White-crowned Sparrows migrate 2,600 miles to winter in California.



California Gnatcatcher

A small, gray bird of the Coastal Sage Scrub, federally listed as threatened due to habitat loss.

Wingspan: 5.5 in.

Diet: Mostly small insects, beetles, caterpillars, wasps, spiders, and ants.

Voice: A nasal mewling “mee-eew.” Kitten-like when relaxed, harsher when agitated.

Fun Fact: During breeding season, males have a distinct black cap that extends down to their eye.



California Towhee

A large sparrow-like bird commonly seen on the ground near shrubs or in parking lots.

Wingspan: 11.5 in.

Diet: Forages on the ground for seeds and small insects.

Voice: “Tink.”

Fun Fact: Mistaking their reflection for another bird, California Towhees may fly against car mirrors or windows in an attempt to defend their territory.

Occurrence: Year-round.



Spotted Towhee

An elusive bird that uses its coloration of dark wings and white spots to camouflage in partial sunlight.

Wingspan: 11 in.

Diet: Insects, seeds and berries.

Voice: Thin whistle or buzzy trill.

Fun Fact: Adult Spotted Towhees have red eyes. Occurrence: Year-round.



Mourning Dove

A common bird of brushy cover, open ground and sub-urban habitats.

Wingspan: 18 in.

Diet: Forages on the ground for seeds. Voice: “coo-OO-oo.”

Fun Fact: Mourning Doves store seeds in an enlargement of their esophagus called a crop. Once filled, they can perch and safely digest.

Occurrence: Year-round.



California Quail

California's state bird usually lives in large groups called coveys and can often be found in brushy areas.

Wingspan: 1.2 ft.

Diet: Mainly seeds. Also leaves, flowers, and berries.

Voice: “Chi-CA-go.”

Fun Fact: Multiple females may lay eggs in the same nest, resulting in as many as 28 chicks.

Occurrence: Year-round.



American Crow

An all black bird, common in flocks in open country as well as in cities.

Wingspan: 3.3 ft.

Diet: Opportunistic omnivores, American Crows will forage for most any food item.

Voice: Hoarse caws.

Fun Fact: Crows have been observed using tools. Occurrence: Year-round.



Greater Roadrunner

A ground-dwelling bird with a long, lean body, Greater Roadrunners are capable of running 20 mph.

Wingspan: 1.8 ft.

Diet: Lizards snakes, insects, mice, and small birds.

Voice: A low purring.

Fun Fact: Roadrunners are known to attack and consume rattlesnakes.

Occurrence: Year-round.



Red-Tailed Hawk

A common bird of prey seen soaring above open country or perched on telephone lines or trees.

Wingspan: 4.4 ft.

Diet: Mostly small rodents, snakes, and small rabbits.

Voice: A high, raspy scream.

Fun Fact: During courtship, a mating pair will fly in high circles around each other as well as swoop and dive.

Occurrence: Year-round.