

PVR BIRD LIST

This list was compiled for by residents of Portola Valley Ranch and is based on their observations. Taxonomy is from the online version of The Sibley Guide to Birds. Species preceded by “?” have been reported once but need confirmation.

Birders are reminded that except for Toyon Trail, all of the Nature Preserve’s trails are open to equestrians, who have right-of-way. Please step aside for hikers, as well, as they may not expect a stationary observer in the middle of a trail.

Look for additional resources at the end of this list.

Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*

Wading birds

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*

Green Heron, *Butorides virescens*

Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Swans, Geese and Ducks

Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*

Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*

Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*

Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*

Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*

Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Diurnal Raptors

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*

Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*

White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus*

Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*

Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*

Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*

Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*

Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*

Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*

Upland Game Birds

California Quail, *Callipepla californica*

Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*

Gruiformes

American Coot, *Fulica americana*

Pigeons and Doves

Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*

Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto*

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*

Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata*

Owls

Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*

Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*

Western Screech-Owl, *Megascops kennicottii*

Hummingbirds

Anna's Hummingbird, *Calypte anna*

Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher, *Megaceryle alcyon*

Woodpeckers

Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*

Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*

Nuttall's Woodpecker, *Picoides nuttallii*

Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*

Red-breasted sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus ruber*

Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus cooperi*

Western Wood-Pee-wee, *Contopus sordidulus*

Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis*

Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus*

cinerascens

Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*

Shrikes and Vireos

Loggerhead shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*

Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*)

Hutton's Vireo, *Vireo huttoni*

Jays, Crows, and Their Allies

Steller's Jay, *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Western Scrub-Jay, *Aphelocoma californica*

Common Raven, *Corvus corax*

American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Swallows

Violet-green Swallow, *Tachycineta thalassina*

Chickadees and Their Allies

Oak Titmouse, *Baeolophus inornatus*

Chestnut-backed Chickadee, *Poecile rufescens*

Bushtit, *Psaltriparus minimus*

Nuthatches and Creepers

Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*
White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*

Wrens

Bewick's Wren, *Thyromanes bewickii*
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*

Wrentit

Wrentit, *Chamaea fasciata*

Kinglets

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*

Gnatcatchers

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea*

Thrushes

Western Bluebird, *Sialia mexicana*
Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*
American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*
Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*
Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus*

Mimids

?Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*
?Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*
California Thrasher, *Toxostoma redivivum*

Starlings and Mynas

?European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*

Silky-Flycatchers and Bulbuls

?Phainopepla, *Phainopepla nitens*

Waxwings

Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Wood-Warblers

Orange-crowned Warbler, *Oreothlypis celata*
Yellow Warbler, *Setophaga petechia*
Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Setophaga coronata*, subspecies
Myrtle Audubon's Warbler, *Setophaga coronata*, subspecies
Audubon's Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Setophaga nigrescens*
Townsend's Warbler, *Setophaga townsendi*
?MacGillivray's Warbler, *Geothlypis tolmiei*
?Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*
Wilson's Warbler, *Cardellina pusilla*

Tanagers, Cardinals and Their Allies

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*
Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Emberizine Sparrows and Their Allies

Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*
California Towhee, *Melospiza crissalis*
Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

?White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*

White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

?Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*

Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*

Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*

Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena*

Icterids

?Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*

Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*

Finches and Old World Sparrows

Purple Finch, *Haemorhous purpureus*

House Finch, *Haemorhous mexicanus*

Pine Siskin, *Spinus pinus*

Lesser Goldfinch, *Spinus psaltria*

American Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis*

?House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*

Additional Resources:

- **eBird** <https://ebird.org/home>

Cornell University oversees this amazing tool, which allows birders to report sightings, search for “hot spots,” find out about current migratory patterns and much more. It also enables individual “citizen scientists” to contribute data to a worldwide effort to better understand the health and habits of individual species. Thanks to Garth Harwood, Director of Education at Hidden Villa, Portola Valley Ranch is listed as a “hot spot.” Use this point of entry to see what has been seen recently.

- **Resources for identification**

- **AllAboutBirds** allaboutbirds.org:

This website, another Cornell resource, provides identification (text and photos) of North American Birds. For interested beginners or those in unfamiliar territory, it’s a great learning tool. A subdivision of the website, **Merlin** (also available as phone app), lets you answer questions about a bird you see, then offers photo choices to help you narrow in on an identification.

- **Birds of North America Online** <https://birdsna.org/Species-Account/bna/home>

This subscription service provides in-depth scientific information on all species of North American Birds. Visitors are allowed to see information on a single species; frequent users must pay to subscribe. Produced by Cornell University and the American Ornithological Society.

- **Audubon Field Guide**

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>

The National Audubon Society’s online guide is simpler than All About Birds but includes information on the impacts of climate change on individual species and links to other projects of the Society.

- **Phone apps:** There are numerous phone apps available to supplement or replace books carried in the field. Two that are easy to use and authoritative:

- **Sibley Birds:** This app allows searches by family, alphabetically, or through “smart search.” Illustrations are by one of today’s most outstanding bird artists. Includes seasonal range, sounds, physical description and habitat.
- **iBird Pro:** This app uses drawings and photographs and allows search by Common or Latin name or Band Code. In addition to general description and field marks, it includes range, sounds, comparison with similar birds, ecological and behavioral information.

- **Local Organizations protecting and advocating for birds** - These groups often offer field trips, classes, lectures, and volunteer opportunities:

- **Sequoia Audubon Society (San Mateo County):** <http://www.sequoia-audubon.org>

- **Santa Clara Audubon Society:** <https://scvas.org>

- **San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory:** <https://www.sfbbo.org>