



LENGTH: 30"
WINGSPAN: 14"

California Quail

Callipepla californica

California quail live near reliable water sources whether in grasslands, woodlands, deserts or residential areas. Their call is easily recognizable, sounding like the word "chi-ca-go" with the accent on the second syllable. The male acts as a sentry, warning of any possible sign of danger.

These birds are easy to see with the curved little plumes on top of their heads, scratching on the ground seeking beetles or insects for a quick meal. If you get too close, they may scurry away or take flight, skimming low just far enough to escape.



LENGTH: 30"
WINGSPAN: 50" ♀

LENGTH: 46"
WINGSPAN: 61" ♂

Wild Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo

Turkeys stroll around looking for leaves, insects (especially grasshoppers), and nuts and seeds on the ground. They will roost in trees at night to avoid predators.

Males will strut, fanning their tails and making that comical gobbling sound that we all know so well, when they seek mates.

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LENGTH: 9"
WINGSPAN: 11.5"

California Towhee

Pipilo crissalis

Towhees are commonly seen near dense shrubbery in residential areas, and in chaparral and stream borders with shrubby growth. They glean seeds and fruits from the ground, but they feed small insects to their young. They also like to sip morning dew from the grass.

This little brown bird is bold, having more than once wandered into someone's house through an open door, just to check things out. Towhees can sometimes be seen pecking at their reflections on the side view mirrors on parked cars, possibly because of curiosity or territoriality.

Code of Birding Ethics

(Adapted from the Audubon Society)

- Observe birds quietly. Do not throw things at or chase birds. Do not "thrash about" the bush to flush birds.
- Avoid approaching a nest, or parents at a nest, too closely. Do not handle eggs or young.
- Use tape recorders with discretion to prevent driving birds from their territories.
- Bird in small groups. Walk in a single file line or spread out to prevent damage to surrounding habitats.
- Do not "tree whack" to arouse cavity dwellers.
- Avoid trampling fragile habitats, especially marshes, grasslands, and wildflowers. Stay on established trails.
- Do not trespass onto private property without written permission.
- Please do not litter.

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BIRDS to WATCH

Like a bird has the fascinating advantage of flight. We are fortunate to have some of the best birding in the Bay Area right here in Livermore. With a large number of species using many different habitats from trees and shrubs to water and open ground, there will surely be a bird that takes your breath away.



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Yellow-billed Magpie

Pica pica

LENGTH: 16.5"
WINGSPAN: 24"

This handsome, showy member of the Corvid family of birds is unique, being found only in central California. They are social and gregarious, found in open country and along roadways, walking or hopping, looking for insects, acorns or other food. When in flight, the iridescent greenish black tail streams behind and large white patches flash in the wings.

Magpie nests are large structures of sticks bound with mud, usually covered by a dome. Nests are occasionally repaired or reused, or new nests are built on top of old ones. This can make for a huge nest, weighing up to 50 pounds!

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LENGTH: 11.5"
WINGSPAN: 15.5"

Western Scrub Jay

Aphelocoma californica

Scrub jays have an appetite for acorns, and sometimes will steal from the caches of Acorn woodpeckers, and then hide the nuts by burying them in their own caches for winter eating. They will also eat insects, and the eggs, nestlings, and fledglings of other birds.

These jays stay year round in their territory, with no need to migrate. Their raucous loud call sounds like "ceerk."



LENGTH: 11.5"
WINGSPAN: 19"

Steller's Jay

Cyanocitta stelleri

Black crests differentiate this bold jay from its relatives. They, too, have a preference for acorns and will use tactics similar to those of the scrub jay to steal them. They eat pine seeds as well as insects and small vertebrates, including eggs and nestlings.

Sometimes jays will forget where they hide acorns, and in this way help in the process of beginning the life of new oak trees.

Expert birders say that the Steller's Jay call strongly resembles that of the Red-Tailed Hawk's.



LENGTH: 8.75"
WINGSPAN: 15.5"

Western Kingbird

Tyrannus verticalis

Western Kingbirds prefer areas with a variety of places to perch. They hover and swoop in on insects that fit into their line of sight. Favorite foods include bees, wasps, moths, and butterflies—any of which they will pursue 35 to 40 feet off the ground.

Kingbirds belong to a group known as the tyrant flycatchers; *Tyrannus* is Latin for tyrant. This is a reference to their habit of aggressively defending their territory against all comers—even raptors.



LENGTH: 12.5"
WINGSPAN: 20"

Red-shafted Flicker

Colaptes auratus

This large and showy woodpecker is commonly seen in areas with trees, including neighborhood parks and gardens.

To catch their favorite food, ants, flickers use their long, fringed tongues. Flickers will also eat certain kinds of nuts, seeds, and grains, such as barley and rye. Flickers nest in cavities and will often return to the same nesting site for several years.

LENGTH: 9"
WINGSPAN: 17.5"

Acorn Woodpecker

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bright red caps distinguish these noisy birds, along with their flashy black and white pattern of feathers.

They will riddle trees, poles, and other wooden sites to use as ladders for storing nuts, in their efforts to plan ahead in case of lean times.

You can hear the tappety-tap of the busy bills of woodpeckers as you walk through the park, especially in the autumn or early winter. Their strong toes are used in grasping bark, two facing forward and two backward while they drill deeply to store acorns.



LENGTH: 7.5"
WINGSPAN: 13"

Nuttall's Woodpecker

Picoides nuttallii

Nuttall's Woodpeckers prefer eating insects, with a few acorns for variety. They will visit willow and cottonwood trees, as well as oaks, and glean from the undersides of limbs, finding all kinds of beetles, and other crawling insects.

Because of their small size you may see them on smaller limbs and branches, using their sharp, chisel-like bills as they drill industriously. Like other members of the woodpecker family, their bodies are equipped with stiff tail feathers and strong feet, which together form a triangular kind of brace to help them to position themselves on the tree bark for the tasks that they perform.

Pairs of these woodpeckers remain all year in their territory, with no need to migrate.