

A Natural Guide to



Bay Area Birds



Birds are an integral part of the natural world. They herald the seasons, pollinate our crops and bring balance to the ecosystem. This guide will help you identify 14 year-round birds that live in our open spaces. It has what you need to get to know these birds and gain insights into this amazing place we call home.

*Save this guide to your smartphone
or print it out and take it with
you on your next hike.*



American Coot

Fulica americana

Small tail and short wings make for long takeoffs and clumsy flying.

11"–13"

Black-Crowned
Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Stockier than most other herons.

24"–28"





Ridgeway's Rail

Rallus obsoletus

Males are larger than females, but sexes are similar in plumage.

14"–16"

Black Oystercatcher

Haematopus bachmani

Feeds mostly at low tide.

16"–18"



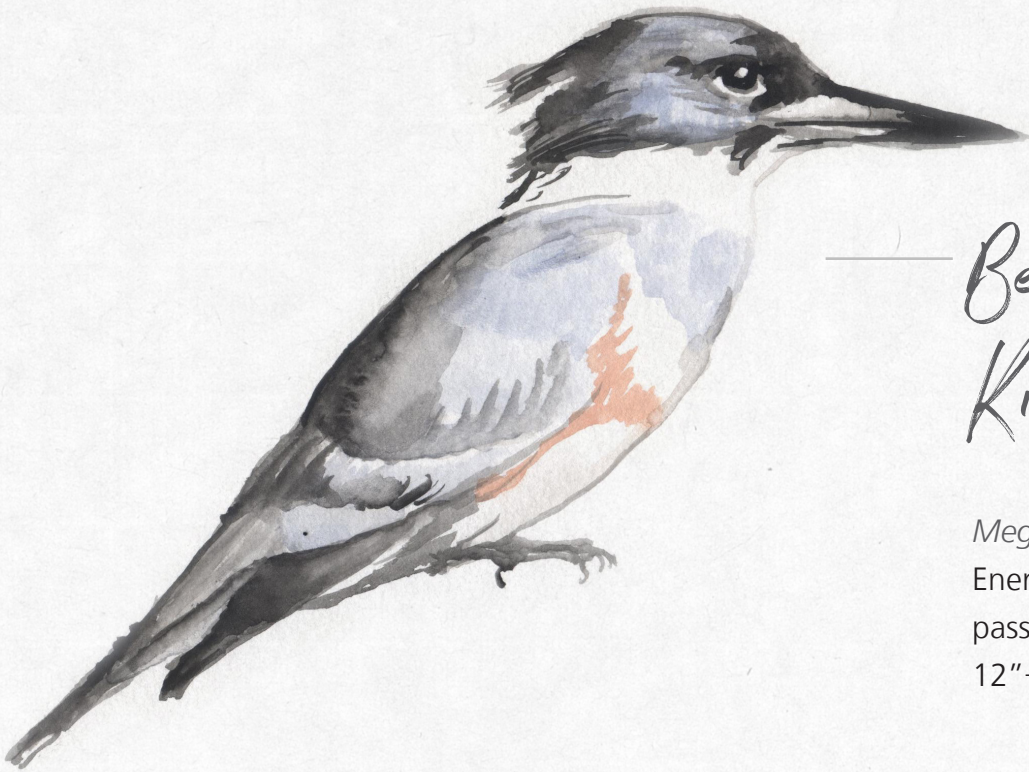
Double-Crested Cormorant

Phalacrocorax auritus

Double crest is only visible during breeding season.

30"–32"





Belted
Kingfisher

Megasceryle alcyon

Energetic flyers - ready to strike a passing fish.

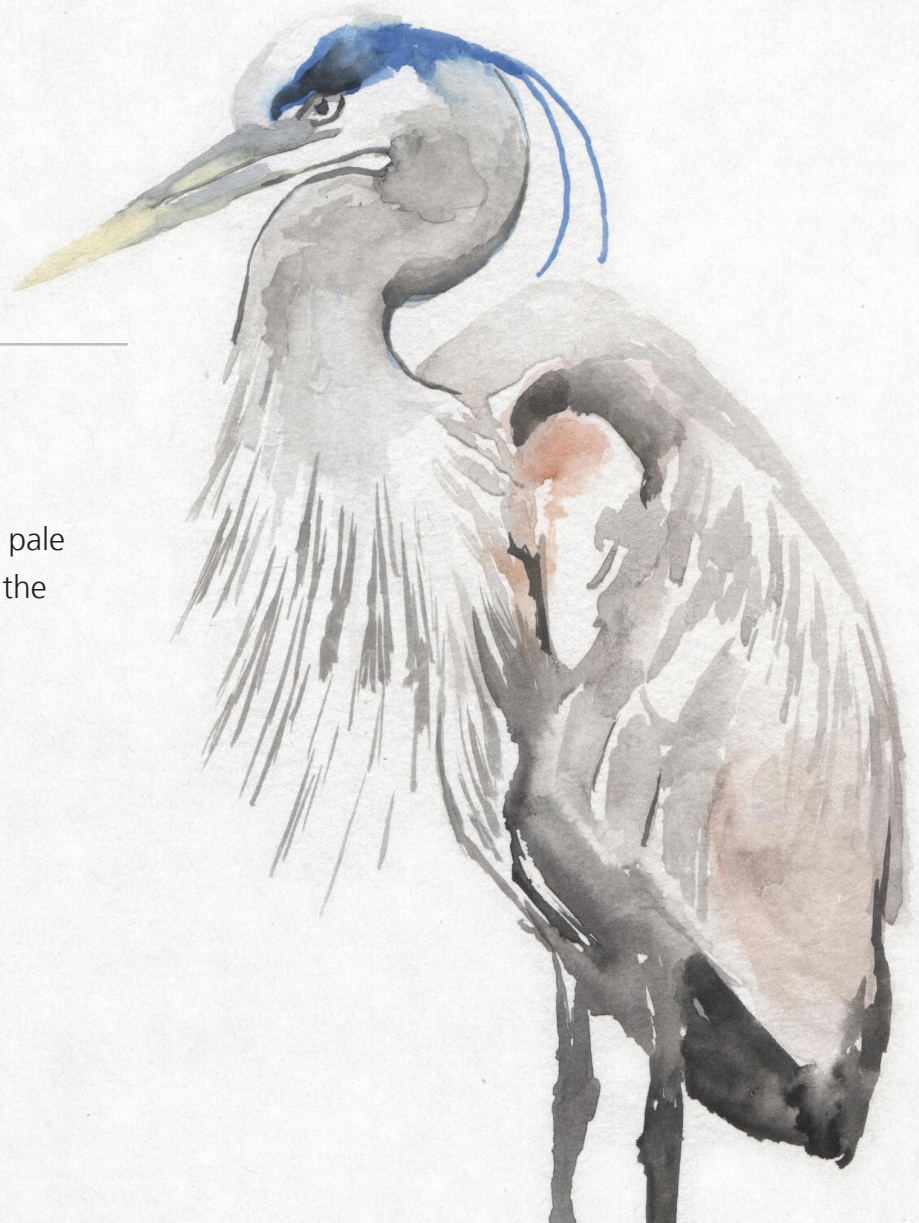
12"-14"

Great Blue
Heron

Ardea herodias

The wing is two-toned in color: pale on the forewing and darker on the flight feathers.

44"-46"





Anna's Hummingbird

Calypte anna

Iridescent pink throat patch is called a "gorget".

3" - 4"

White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

Jams and then whacks acorns in tree bark to "hatch" the seeds.

5" - 6"



Western Meadowlark

Sturnella neglecta

Outer tail feathers flash white in flight.

8" - 9"





American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

Their pale faces have black vertical slashes.

10"–11"

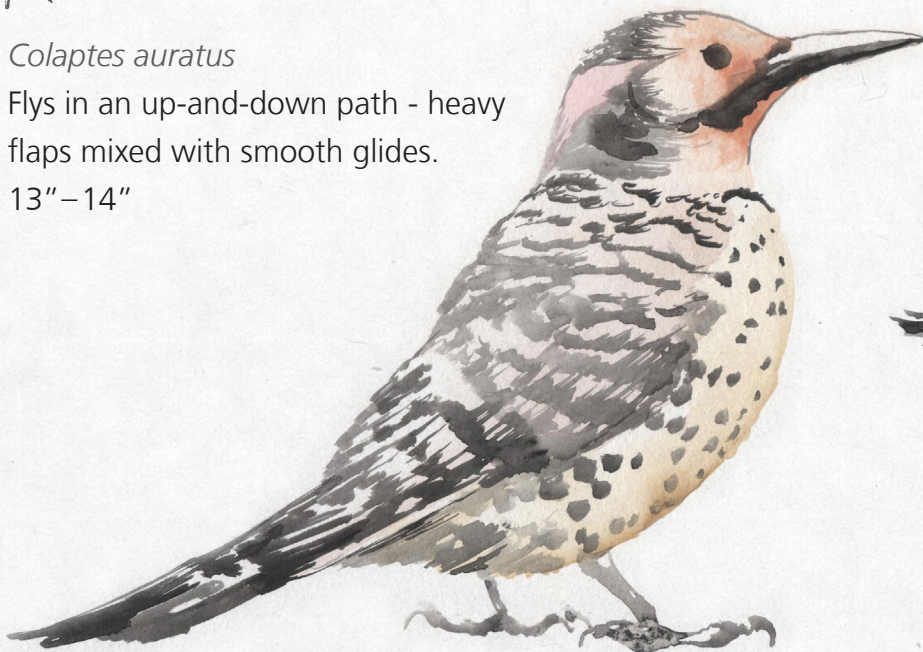


Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

Flys in an up-and-down path - heavy flaps mixed with smooth glides.

13"–14"





California Thrasher

Toxostoma redivivum

Heavy curved bill is used to flip leaf-litter and dig in the soil.

11"–13"

Northern Harrier

Circus cyaneus

Males perform elaborate barrel rolls to impress females during courtship.

18"–23"



Listen to these birds' songs on our website

openspacetrust.org/bird-songs



POST protects and cares for open space, farms,
and parkland in and around Silicon Valley.

Illustrations by Obi Kaufmann