



Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden (PHIG)

At Pleasant Hill Education Center

1 Santa Barbara Rd. at Hawthorne Rd., Behind the PH Library

Across from Pleasant Hill Middle School

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Restoring Habitat For Our Birds

Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden is a natural habitat to many native bird species in the Bay Area. The garden currently provides local birds with shelter from the weather, places to hide from predators, resting spots, and sites for nesting. Many of the plants, shrubs, and trees in the garden offer cover as well as food to birds. Some wildlife species prefer cover in stone walls, brush piles, or tree cavities.

Below are some of the threatened or endangered bird species that live locally in the Bay Area and some ways to help them.



Allen's Hummingbird

- 3 to 3 1/2 inches in length
- Diet consists of flower nectar and small insects
- Can be identified by red/rust and white throats with metallic green backs
- Common in spring, summer, and fall



Oak Titmouse

- 5 3/4 inches in length
- Diet consists of insects, spiders, berries, acorns, and some seeds
- Can be identified by brown-tinted plumage and crest or tuft on head
- Nest primarily in oak trees



Lawrence's Goldfinch

- 4 3/4 inches in length
- Diet consists of seeds and berries
- Can be identified by black and white plumage and yellow rumps, wings, breasts
- Nest in dry, bushy, and weedy areas including residential areas



Sage Sparrow

- 4 3/4 to 6 inches in length
- Diet consists of insects and seeds
- Can be identified by white breast and gray/brown upper parts and white ring around eye
- Nest primarily in shrubs and bushes



Swainson's Hawk

- 17-22 inches in length
- Can be identified by reddish bib, white throat and face, and dark feathers
- Nest primarily in trees, shrubs and cliff edges



Varied Thrush

- 8-10 inches in length
- Diet consists of insects and berries
- Can be identified by intense orange, black, and brown plumage
- Nest typically in conifer trees



The Barn Owl

The barn owl can be identified by its heart-shaped face, solid black eyes, and white and tan feathers. They are vital assets in our environment, providing excellent rodent control, as gophers, mice and rats are central parts of their diet. In captivity, a barn owl can live 4 years. However, due to habitat loss, lack of food, and urbanization, the average barn owl has a lifespan of only 1-2 years.

PHIG is working to create a safer habitat for

these essential birds through a newly constructed barn owl house and is asking for your help to play your part in bird habitat conservation! *These are small acts you can do to play your part in wild bird and habitat restoration:* —>

- **Reduce pesticide/rodenticide use**
- **Avoid the use of toxins and chemicals as much as possible**
- **Dispose of toxins properly**
- **Provide food (planting plants with nuts and berries year-round)**
- **Provide water (establish birdbaths, puddling areas, streams, and ponds)**
- **Provide nesting and shelter (planting trees, grasslands, and setting up birdhouses)**
- **Be respectful of wildlife in outdoor locations**