



# UCLA Anderson

School of Management

## SUNSET BOULEVARD

Charles E. Young Drive North

A James A. Collins Center for Executive Education

B Leon and Toby Gold Hall

C Entrepreneurs Hall

D Clark and B.J. Cornell Hall

E Eugene and Maxine Rosenfeld Library

F Peter W. Mullin Management Commons

\* Carolbeth and Lester Korn Convocation Hall

\*\* Executive Dining Room (EDR)

\*\*\* Rosemarie and James Nix Garden

Walkways

Stairs

passenger drop area

to 405 FREEWAY

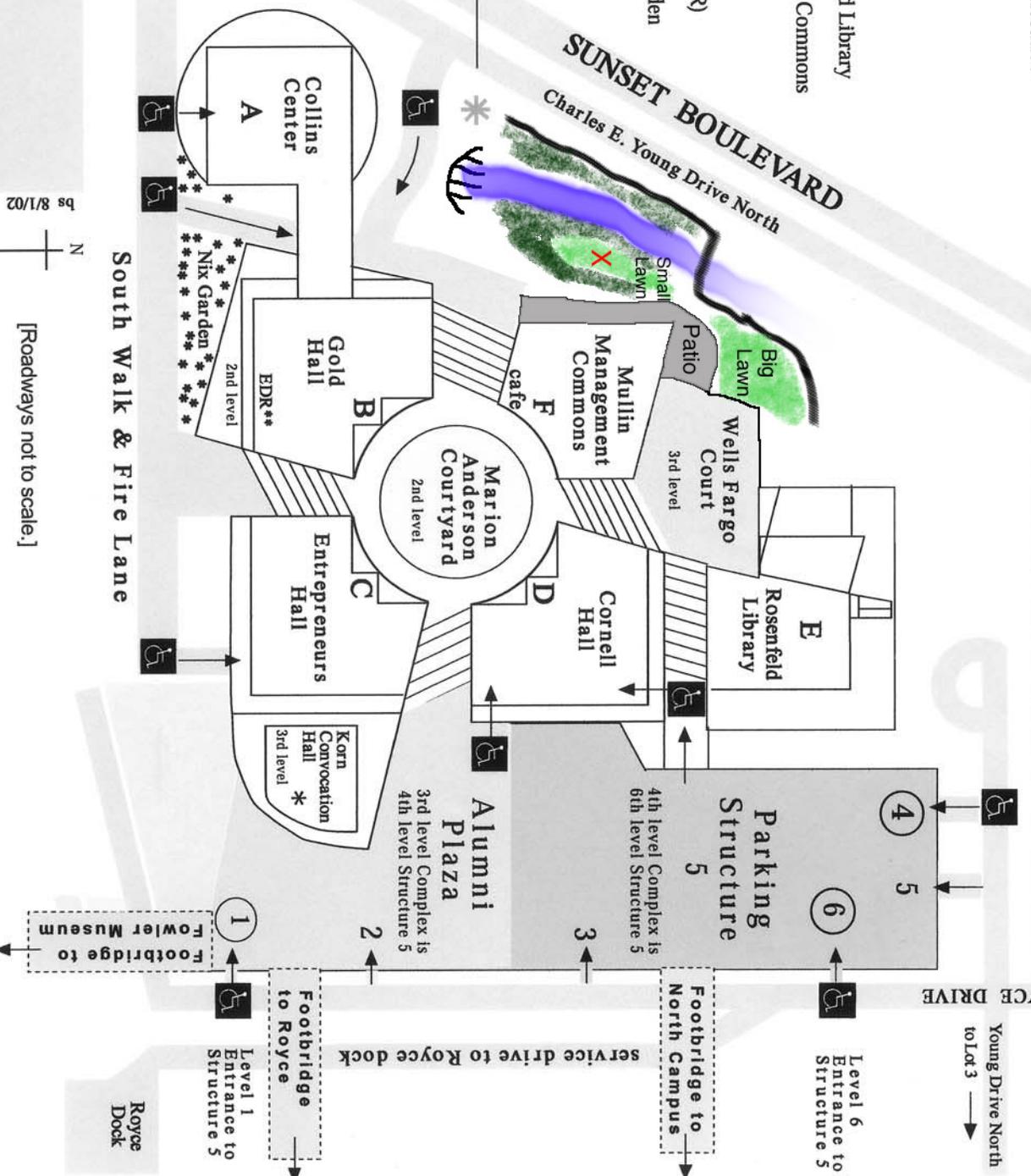
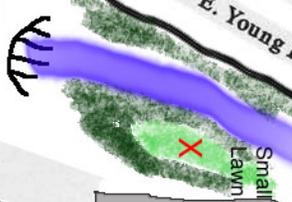
Young Drive North

Underground Parking Structure 4

Underground Parking & Information Kiosk

WEST WOOD

SUNSET BOULEVARD  
Charles E. Young Drive North



[Roadways not to scale.]

South Walk & Fire Lane

ROYCE DRIVE  
Young Drive North to Lot 3

1 Fowler Museum  
Footbridge to

Royce Dock

Level 1 Entrance to Structure 5

Footbridge to Royce

service drive to Royce dock

Alumni Plaza  
3rd level Complex is  
4th level Structure 5

Footbridge to North Campus

Level 6 Entrance to Structure 5

Parking Structure 5  
4th level Complex is  
6th level Structure 5

Young Drive North to Lot 3

## **Guide to Birds of Stone Canyon Creek**

*Assembled by Bobby Walsh, photos by Jason Finley, Sean Hoppes, Jay Fahlen, and Bobby Walsh.*

The guide is far from comprehensive, but it, along with the recordings of birds available for download, will hopefully allow you to identify a number of the birds that live near Stone Canyon Creek.

The best way to use this guide would be to familiarize yourself with it first and *then* go out into the field, preferably with binoculars. In that way, when you see a new bird you won't need to juggle the tasks of observing it and leafing through a list of things it might be all at once.

Also be sure to listen to the bird recordings before heading out (don't worry, they're not very long), because noting the sounds a bird makes can help a lot in identifying it. If you can, it would be a good idea to bring the sounds with you on an mp3 or CD player, that way you can listen to them again soon after you've heard a bird.

Birds are grouped here not taxonomically but behaviorally. That is, apart from 5 distinct & familiar birds, all other species are classified either as "skulkers", "gleaners", or "chatty flocks" based on what you'll most often see them doing.

~ ***Distinctive/Familiar*** species are those that are either familiar or distinct enough to make identifying them very straightforward. The birds that immediately provoke a mental image—crow, robin, hummingbird, woodpecker—fall into this category, as does the black phoebe, a highly visible bird with a unique appearance and behavior.

~ ***Skulkers*** are birds that move stealthily through low vegetation and are infrequently seen, though often heard. If you see a bird moving through low brush, staying well out of sight, check this category first. Two towhees, a sparrow, and a thrush are included.

~ ***Gleaners*** are in some cases like skulkers in that they move through dense vegetation, but they tend to be much more energetic. All birds in this category are relatively small and always on the move, flitting from tree to tree or shrub to shrub in search of insects that they glean from leaves and branches. This category includes the two common wrens, kinglets, and a number of warblers.

~ ***Chatty Flocks*** are those birds who you'll never or only rarely find away from a group. These groups tend to be noisy ones. Waxwings and bushtits represent the ultra-devoted end of the flocking spectrum while house finches and lesser goldfinches form somewhat looser groups. If you see a rather loose or casual flock, however, its constituent species need not be in this category—crows and some warblers, for example, can also travel in groups.

So if you're completely stuck as to where to begin with identifying a bird, start by looking at what it's doing, and then investigate the members of the category into which it falls. Taking notes is also a great idea. In this way, you can remember precise details long after the unknown bird has flown away. If you go straight to the guide in the field, it's likely the bird will fly away before you find its match and that you won't remember as many details as if you had simply watched the bird rather than tried to immediately identify it.

There will inevitably be some species encountered that are not on this list. To determine their identity, start by consulting Birds of Westwood (<http://www.birdsofwestwood.com>), and if that fails, look to a normal "Field Guide" for birds (available at the College and Biomed library) such as the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Good luck birding!

## DISTINCTIVE & FAMILIAR BIRDS

	<p><b>ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD ~ 4"</b>          You'll often hear these hummingbirds giving a distinctive, scratchy-squeaky call. When not feeding, they tend to perch in one place and allow a fairly close approach. Be sure to compare to Allen's Hummingbird (see "Confusing Pairs" page).</p>
	<p><b>NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER ~ 7.5"</b>          Despite their bold patterning, Nuttall's Woodpeckers are more easily heard than seen. They give a loud, harsh rattling call that almost has a machine-gun quality. You probably won't hear them drumming against wood – their rattle call is far more often heard. Males have a red patch on their crown. Compare to Downy Woodpecker (see "Confusing Pairs" page).</p>
	<p><b>BLACK PHOEBE ~ 7"</b>          A cheerful little bird with black upper parts and a white belly. You'll usually see it perching out in the open giving a high-pitched "chip!" call and bobbing its tail. It darts out to catch insects in flight or off the ground. Common at the creek; usually seen singly.</p>
	<p><b>AMERICAN ROBIN ~ 10"</b>          We're used to seeing robins pulling earthworms out of lawns, but these birds also spend much of their time up in trees. Be sure to listen to its vocalizations – often heard after dawn and near dusk.</p>
	<p><b>AMERICAN CROW ~ 18"</b>          Hopefully you know what a crow looks like! They're big and black and, well, that just about sums them up. If your "crow" looks unusually large, compare it to the Common Raven (see "Confusing Pairs" page). Crows usually travel in groups and are much more frequently encountered at the creek than ravens.</p>

## SKULKERS

	<p><b>HERMIT THRUSH ~ 7"</b>          One of the shyest birds around. They are usually found quite low to the ground and are always in or near dense cover. Listen for its rather sharp "chut" call and then look for movement. Brown back with white breast and underparts. Numerous dark spots extend from the throat to belly.</p>
	<p><b>SPOTTED TOWHEE ~ 9"</b>          A beautiful bird with rufous-colored sides and black back with white markings on the wing. White belly. Demonic little red eye. The only time this bird isn't stealthy is when singing; it will pick an open perch and give a long, buzzy call, something like "Thuuurrrrrrrr". (That's quite a lot of rs). Fairly common.</p>
	<p><b>CALIFORNIA TOWHEE ~ 9"</b>          A very drab, uniformly brown bird except for a splash of pale orange-red near the base of its tail. Its song is a series of metallic chips that accelerate in the pattern of a bouncing ball: chip----chip--chip-chip-chchchchip. Call is one of those notes on its own. Very often heard near the creek.</p>
	<p><b>SONG SPARROW ~ 6"</b>          These birds like low, brushy vegetation. They are basically a brown bird with coarse, dark streaks marking their white undersides. Rather stocky birds. Make a distinctive call, something like a loud, flat "Rhit!".</p>

## GLEANERS

	<p><b>BEWICK'S WREN ~ 5 ¼"</b> See "Confusing Pairs" page for full treatment of the wrens.</p>
	<p><b>HOUSE WREN ~ 4 ¾"</b> See "Confusing Pairs" page for full treatment of the wrens.</p>
	<p><b>RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET ~ 4 ¼"</b> Tiny bird with attitude. All over the creek in winter and are often the first bird you'll hear – a somewhat scolding call. They're more or less green with some black and thin white barring on the wings and a prominent white eye-ring. Quite unafraid of humans. Hop around busily. Red crest usually not visible.</p>
	<p><b>ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER ~ 5"</b> An easy bird to miss if you're not looking for it. It's olive green-ness just disappears into the vegetation. Usually fairly low in trees or near ground. Don't look for an orange crown; you won't see it.</p>
	<p><b>YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER ~ 5 ½"</b> Another common winter birds, yellow-rumped warblers are usually found in loose flocks. The birds busily glean insects from trees and sometimes dart out to catch them in the air. Listen for terse little "chip"s and look for, as the name suggests, yellow rumps. Body is brownish-gray to gray with some darker streaking.</p>
	<p><b>BLACK-THROATED GRAY/TOWNSEND'S WARBLER ~ 5"</b> These are essentially the same bird; Black-throated Gray simply lacks all the yellow of the Townsend's. Both work at mid-level through trees. Not nearly as abundant as Yellow-rumped Warblers, but you may encounter them flitting through trees in search of insects. B.T.G. is on left, Townsend's on right.</p>
	<p><b>COMMON YELLOWTHROAT ~ 5"</b> Another bird with attitude, yellowthroats are basically skulking, secretive warblers. Males have a distinctive black face mask and yellow front, females (not pictured) are the same minus the black mask and with a bit less or duller yellow on the throat.</p>
	<p><b>WILSON'S WARBLER ~ 4 ¾"</b> This last warbler is an active little ball of yellow feathers. Its back has more greenish overtones and males have a tidy little black cap. Often seen in pairs. Usually a bird of summer, but some may linger through autumn.</p>

## CHATTY FLOCKERS

	<p><b>BUSHTIT ~ 4.5"</b> These are tiny, drab gray-brown birds with yellow (♀) or dark brown (♂) eyes. Flocks of four or more bushtits are common near the creek; when one is present you'll hear a soft chatter rise from all the members giving short, buzzy calls to one another. They're always in motion, hopping through trees to find small insects.</p>
	<p><b>CEDAR WAXWING ~ 8"</b> Mostly brownish birds with distinctive crest, black face mask, and yellow-tipped tail. Often heard before they are seen, these birds make very high-pitched, clear <i>seeeee</i> calls incessantly. They forage and fly in tight flocks, usually of 10+ birds. They have been spotted high up in the sycamore trees where they feed on mistletoe berries.</p>
	<p><b>HOUSE FINCH ~ 6"</b> These birds have brown backs with a brown and white streaked underside. Males also have bright red (sometime yellow) faces and fronts. Male house finches are near constant singers, and their song is a very cheerful warbling one. In flight they give "<i>wheet-wheet...wheet-wheet</i>" calls.</p>
	<p><b>LESSER GOLDFINCH ~ 4.5"</b> Another tiny flocking bird. Females are yellow-green with black and white on their wings, and males are a bit yellower with bolder black markings on head and back, and they also have black and white on the wing. They are noisy birds that make a variety of different vocalizations. Feed on buds, seeds, and insects. Common.</p>

## TOUGH PAIRS

Some birds are easy to confuse with one another, but if you know what to look (or listen) for, then you should be able to put a name to most birds that you'll observe. The critical, distinguishing features that allow you to make these IDs are called "field marks" as they are usually readily seen in the field. Below are a few of the more challenging species you may encounter and how to tell them apart:

### **The Wrens: House vs. Bewick's**

Both wrens are mostly brown with lighter undersides and are behaviorally similar. They hop through dense brush and make calls that seem too loud and harsh to come out of such tiny birds. And, unfortunately, neither tend to give observers a very good view. Still, they can be told apart: look for the eyebrow first; it's the best single field mark.

	<b>BEWICK'S WREN</b>	<b>HOUSE WREN</b>	
	Distinctive, bright white eyebrow	No eyebrow (or very faint) but distinct white eye-ring	
	All gray bill	Yellow on lower bill	
	Dark, grayish legs	Light, pinkish-gray legs	
	Flits tail (relatively longer than House Wren's, though it doesn't look that way here) side to side	Tail relatively shorter, may be cocked up but not really flicked side to side	

### **The Hummingbirds: Allen's vs. Anna's**

Anna's Hummingbird appears to be the more common at the creek, but Allen's could certainly wander over the creek. The basic rule is that Anna's are the green hummingbirds, allen's are the rufous(orange)-and-green ones.



*Female and male Allen's Hummingbirds (left) and male and female Anna's Hummingbirds (right).*

Note that there is always some brown or rufous(orange) on an Allen's Hummingbird regardless of gender: in males it's very widespread while on females it only shows up on the belly, flanks, and tail. Anna's hummingbirds, on the other hand, have no brown whatsoever and they have much more extensive green plumage covering their backs, tails, and flanks. Males of both species have bright pink-red patches on their throat/head called "gorgets". These can appear as dark patches unless the light hits them at the proper angle.

### **Two Potentially Confusing Pairs**

It's easy to mix up American Crow/Common Raven and Nuttall's Woodpecker/Downy Woodpecker if you're just looking for, say a "really big black bird" or a "run-of-the-mill woodpecker," respectively. And most of the time, it would be OK to just look for those things as ravens tend to avoid the creek while crows love it and Downy Woodpeckers are relatively uncommon here while Nuttall's Woodpeckers are all over. Still, a couple of field marks will let you know that what you're looking at really is a crow or Nuttall's Woodpecker and not something else.

(Note: cartoons are simplified for clarity – don't expect a bird in the field to match up to them)

<b>Nuttall's Woodpecker</b>	<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>	<b>American Crow</b>	<b>Common Raven</b>
Back has a row of horizontal stripes	Back has a big white rectangle and spots, but no stripes	Smaller (18" long) with slimmer beak than raven	Larger (24" long) with very heavy bill
		In flight, look for "fan-shaped tail" and constant flapping	In flight, look for soaring (crows never soar) and "wedge-shaped tail"
			