My name is Jonah Benningfield, and I have lived in the Presidio since I was two years old. When I was eight, I became interested in the world of birding, and when I was ten I became interested in photography. The two go together well, and, frankly, I had an awesome time aiding in the making of this guide, now at thirteen. If you walk through Mountain Lake Park, or really anywhere in the Presidio, at any given time of day or year, there is a very good chance that you will see more than one of the species pictured here in this guide. I hope that you enjoy it. My desire is that those who use it will walk away with somewhat of an interest, no matter how small, in birding.
PIED-BILLED GREBE
13” – lakes and ponds

Folk names of this grebe include dabchick, devil diver, dive-dapper, hell-diver, and water witch.

SONG SPARROW
6 1/4” – all terrestrial habitats

Some scientists think that Song Sparrows of wet, coastal areas have darker plumage as a defense against feather mites.

ANNA’S HUMMINGBIRD ♂
4” – all terrestrial habitats

When flying, Anna’s Hummingbirds’ hearts beat at 1260 beats per minute.

CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAY
11” – native scrubland and oak woodland

This species is known to feed on parasites on the body of mule deer, hopping over the body and head of the deer.

BLACK PHOEBE
7” – shady streams and woodland with open perches

Although primarily insectivorous, Phoebes will occasionally catch fish, and eat berries.

PYGMY NUTHATCH
4 1/4” – cypress and coniferous woodland

It is one of only two nuthatch species in the world known to have offspring helpers at the nest.

WILSON’S WARBLER ♂
4 3/4” – riparian woodland

Wilson’s Warblers can raise their black skullcaps into a crest possibly when they need to look bigger or more aggressive.

DARK-EYED JUNCO ♂
6 1/4” – all terrestrial habitats

They mainly eat insects and seeds. However, they’ll sometimes eat their own droppings to gather vital nutrition in hard times.

AMERICAN COOT
15” – ponds and lakes

Coots are kleptoparasitic, which means that when they can’t hunt for their own food, they’ll steal their meal from other birds.

RED-TAILED HAWK
19” – coniferous forest and open scrubland and fields

They can spot a mouse from a height of 100 feet.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON
25” – lakes and ponds with wooded edges

Black-Crowned Night Herons can hunt by vibrating their bills in the water to lure prey into investigating the disturbance.

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE
4 3/4” – riparian woodland

Chestnut-capped Chickadees will nest and feed in the lower half of trees in order to minimize competition with Black-capped Chickadees.

Folk names of this grebe include dabchick, devil diver, dive-dapper, hell-diver, and water witch.

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