

Expedition 4:



SBMNH - Oak Woodland



Mission Creek

(Located at 2559 Puesta del Sol off Mission Canyon Rd.)

Park at the end of the parking lot and walk through four acres of riparian (located by water) woodlands. The tall trees, shrubs, and Mission Creek support many species of birds.

Birding in tree canopies and heavily wooded areas is not easy. Start by watching the tree canopies for movement. Keep your eyes on the spot and bring binoculars up to your eyes. Be patient and watch closely to get a good look at the birds busily gleaning insects in trees.

Many of the birds will be small. Measure your hand before you go birding with a ruler. How many centimeters from your wrist to each of your fingers? You can even write the measurements on your hand with a washable pen. When you see a bird, compare its size in the field guide with your hand measurements.

Observations:

- Is the bird always in motion?
- Does it hang upside down?
- Does the bird start low in the tree and move up?
- Does the bird stay at the top of the tree?
- Does the bird stay hidden in the branches?

- Does the bird pop out of the tree canopy to get a look at you?
- Is the bird alone or in a flock of birds?

In addition to common backyard and urban birds, mark the following birds in your field guide for quick reference.



Dennis Ringer

Bushtit



Christopher Taylor

Canyon Wren



Christopher Taylor

Common Yellowthroat



Wes Stone

Bewick's Wren





Christopher Taylor

Orange-crowned Warbler



Dieter J Schaefer

Red-shouldered Hawk



Dieter J Schaefer

Acorn Woodpecker



Lynn Watson

Dark-eyed Junco (male)

Seasonal Visitors



Christopher Taylor

Allen's Hummingbird



Dennis Ringer

Band-tailed Pigeon



Roger Milkkan

Barn Swallows





Christopher Taylor

Pacific-slope Flycatcher



Dennis Ringer

Yellow-rumped Warbler



Alex Abela

White-crowned Sparrow



Dave Furseth

Cedar Waxwings

