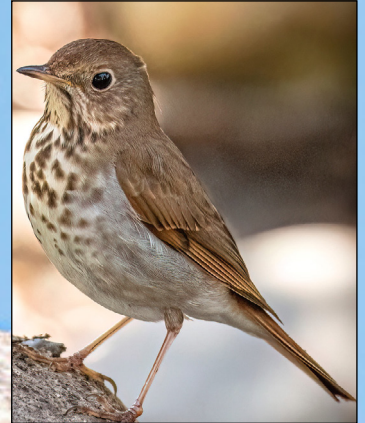


BIRD OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER



HERMIT THRUSH

Fall birding means the welcome return of the secretive Hermit Thrush that revels in its own company diligently rummaging through the leaf litter and forest under-story in search of spiders, ants, earthworms, and insects of all varieties. A favorite winter food includes the red berries fallen from our abundant native Toyon bushes and other fruit bearing winter shrubs. Although favoring the dark, shadowy areas under bushes and trees, listen attentively for its loud, abrupt “TCHUP!” call, revealing its presence only a few feet away!

Once there, you’ll behold this ground-foraging small brown bird with a thin dark bill standing out as it nervously flicks its wings and contrasting reddish-brown tail that lifts up-and-down confirming its identification even before revealing its heavily spotted breast. A beady black eye, narrowly ringed in white contributes to a startlingly distinctive appearance.

Enjoy this diligent hermit as it over-winters with us and before the springtime draws it to northern, higher elevations for spring/summer breeding.

A dedicated team of birders survey and tally all the birds and bird species each month producing a report viewable on the website. It’s accompanied by extraordinary photos that can be a useful learning tool when preparing for a visit to the Urban Forest. It’s great to know what birds can be expected each month, and a thrill to encounter them on your own.

To learn more about the fascinating range of distinctive birds appearing in the Urban Forest and along the Shipley to Shore Nature Trail, and about our new spokesperson, visit:

hbtrees.org/urban-forest-2/bird-watching-in-the-urban-forest and
hbtrees.org/urban-forest-2/meet-the-urban-forest-spokesbird.