

New York Creek, El Dorado Hills

New York Creek runs from the Salmon Falls area of eastern Folsom Lake along Salmon Falls Road, and then roughly parallels El Dorado Hills Boulevard for several miles. The destination is a narrow hiking trail bordered closely by dense streamside habitat and containing a wide variety of riparian species year-round. The trail ends at St. Andrews Place approximately two miles from the bridge at Francisco Drive. Poison oak is abundant along the trail, and signs posted its length warn of possible mountain lion sightings, so caution is required.

Birding the site: From the parking lot, cross the small bridge over the creek and turn right onto the trail. Year-round, watch and listen for Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse, flocks of Bushit, House Wren, Hermit Thrush, Spotted Towhee and California Towhee. Western Bluebirds may be seen in the open field above the trail about half-way to St. Andrews Place. Coyotes and deer are fairly common along this trail.

In winter, watch for Sharp-shinned Hawks, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, occasional Varied Thrush, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows.

Directions: From Sacramento, take Highway 50 (29 miles east from Interstate 5) to the El Dorado Hills Boulevard exit (exit 30B); turn right onto El Dorado Hills Boulevard and continue approximately four miles to Francisco Drive. Turn right onto Francisco, drive to the bottom of the hill and park in the marked spaces.

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