

Quick Overview – Located in South San Francisco, San Bruno Mountain is located at the northern most part of the Santa Cruz Mountain Range. It is quite obvious as it rises between 101 and 280. It is also an open space above the busy cities below for birds to take refuge. Fall is a good time to visit as we never know if a rare migrant will appear. For many on the trip, this was their first time exploring the mountain. It proved to be a beautiful, hot day as temperatures rose into the 90's. Often windy on the mountain top, this day was clear and calm. We spent the morning walking the Bog Trail up to the Edward Bacciocco Jr. Group Area. We found several different species of sparrows all new for the season – White and Golden Crowned, Lincoln and Fox. A Song Sparrow along the bog was one of the more cooperative to observe. Once in the open a Cooper's Hawk provided a nice fly-by and some had great looks at a Wren. A few White Throated Swift were close enough for all to see. Pygmy Nuthatch were heard throughout the morning, but we never got them in our optics. After lunch we drove to the peak which is just over 1300 feet in elevation. The views all around were a tourist's dream. Here we found Common Ravens hanging out in a large flock numbering well over 25. They appeared to be playing amongst themselves and enjoying the rising thermals. On occasion they would accompany a Red-tailed Hawk out of the area. From up at the top we also found a Say's Phoebe and Turkey Vultures. One more stop on the way down gave us the chance to study a female Western Tanager that appeared to be resting in the shade. Who knows, maybe she just flew in on her migration south. We also had a vole and a gopher during our day. Thank you to all that put this adventure on their calendars and to those that saved this open space.

- Turkey Vulture
- Red-tail Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Band Tailed Pigeon
- White Throated Swift
- Northern Flicker
- Black Phoebe
- Say's Phoebe
- Western Scrub-Jay
- Steller's Jay
- Common Raven
- Chestnut Backed Chickadee
- Pygmy Nuthatch (H)
- Bewick's Wren
- American Robin
- Wren
- Northern Mockingbird
- Yellow Warblers
- Western Tanager
- Spotted Towhee
- California Towhee
- Song Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- House Finch
- Purple Finch
- Lesser Goldfinch
- American Goldfinch



Images of our day - Beautiful butterfly – Tony Woo / Walking the trails – Lisa Myers / A panoramic view of San Francisco from the top, female Western Tanager, gopher and Cooper's Hawk all Tony Woo / A new hat for Freddy – Lisa Myers