

Final Trip Report – Fremont Peak, CA. San Benito County, April 19, 2014 – *trip leader Lisa Myers*



Quick Overview – Fremont Peak State Park is located just outside of San Juan Bautista, CA. It had been two years since we birded this spring hot spot so folks were looking forward to going back. The peak is over 3,000 foot in elevation so we started our birding at the bottom and worked our way up. Green grasses and Oak Trees allowed for Western Bluebirds and several species of woodpeckers right at the start. The Selasphorous Hummingbirds were buzzing by so quickly they were heard more than seen. One hunting Golden Eagle flew so close to the group all had fantastic looks. One singing Purple Finch was a pleasant surprise and a life bird for many. A pair of Black Headed Grosbeaks were a first of the year for most. Both the Wilson's & Orange Crowned Warblers

were heard only birds for the day. Although we tried for Sage Sparrows to no avail, we did get several other sparrow species including Rufous Crowned Sparrows. Once at the top we took the trail around the west side of the mountain which allowed for a view to the ocean. While few saw the Lazuli Bunting we did get great looks at both Canyon Wren & Rock Wren; both their songs echoing down the mountain. Low flying White Throated Swifts were fun to watch and we also observed a soaring partial leucistic Red-tail Hawk. Unusually marked we got a distant photo before he flew out of sight. And we cannot forget the wildflowers as they were popping out everywhere - blue, purple, yellow, white.....













Images taken during our day - Delphiniums were just one of the many different types of wildflowers enjoyed during our day - Lisa Myers Partial Leucistic (white feathers) Red-tail Hawk was a special bird observed by all – Tony Woo / Western Bluebird in Oaks – Tony Woo Western Bluebird pair looking at nest cavity – Kevin Reed / The group enjoying a Rock Wren at the top of the peak – Lisa Myers / Butterfly on wildflowers & immature Golden Eagle – Tony Woo / One of several Rock Wrens – Kevin Reed

Mallard Wild Turkey California Quail Turkey Vulture Golden Eagle Red-tail Hawk Cooper's Hawk American Kestrel Rock Pigeon Mourning Dove Band Tailed Pigeon **Eurasian Collared Dove** Anna's Hummingbird Selasphorus Hummer White Throated Swift Nuttall's Woodpecker Northern Flicker (H) Acorn Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Black Phoebe Pacific Slope Flycatcher Ash Throated Flycatcher Warbling Vireo Western Scrub-Jay Steller's Jay **American Crow** Common Raven Violet Green Swallow Tree Swallow Oak Titmouse Bushtit White Breasted Nuthatch Bewick's Wren House Wren CanyonWren Rock Wren Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (H) Western Bluebird American Robin **European Starling** Wrentit (H) Northern Mockingbird California Thrasher (H) Yellow-rumped Warbler Wilson's Warbler (H) **Orange Crowned Warbler** Spotted Towhee California Towhee Song Sparrow White-crowned Sparrow Golden-crowned Sparrow Rufous Crowned Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco Black-Headed Grosbeak Lazuli Bunting Red-winged Blackbird Brewer's Blackbird Western Meadowlark Bullock's Oriole Purple Finch House Finch Lesser Goldfinch Heard Only = (H) www.letsgobirding.com

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