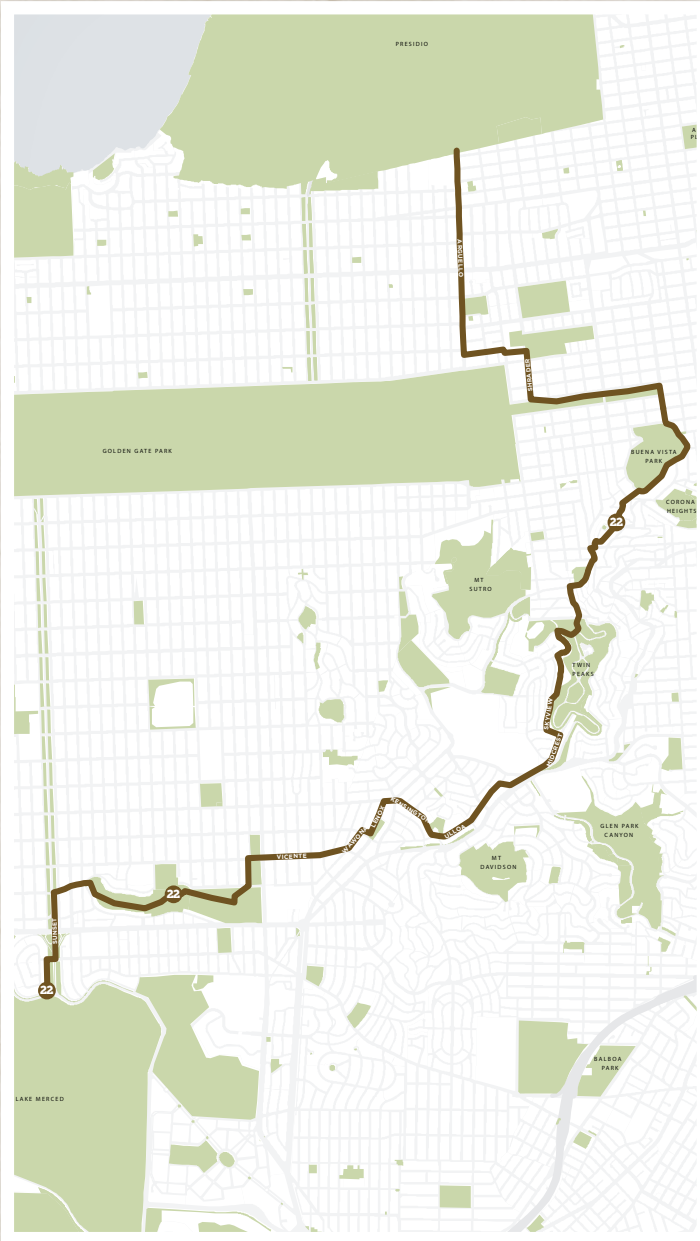


RIDGE TRAIL

SPECIES: NUTTALL'S WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW



ROUTE HIGHLIGHTS

- » Ridge Trail, Lake Merced, Stern Grove, Edgehill Mountain, Twin Peaks, Buean Vista Park, the Panhandle, Angelo J Rossi Playground, the Presidio



Credit: birdsasart.com

NUTTALL'S WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – *Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*

Sing a song to me! (Loudmouths!) (Sing your heart out!)
(Let's have a sing along!)

The song dialects of this resident songbird are so specialized that songs vary noticeably from one park to another. Once a common breeder in landscaped neighborhoods throughout much of San Francisco, its special song is now rarely heard in the city's neighborhoods. The non-migratory 'nutallii' subspecies of White-crowned Sparrow, which occurs only near the coast, is increasingly restricted to parkland areas with restored coastal scrub.

RESIDENT OR MIGRATORY

Resident

KEY HABITAT FEATURES

Reside along the California coast, much of the breeding habitat, when not found in urban areas, is coastal chaparral. Features within a given territory include grass for rapid protective covering while foraging; bare ground for foraging; shrubbery to shelter a nest or provide a roost; and a source of water (salt or fresh). The combination of these elements works best when they are found in a patchy array so as to maximize territory suitability. Within a given territory, however, elements such as bare ground or water might not be immediately present, but may be found nearby.

DIET

Forages for seeds that can include weed seed or small grains like oats, wheat, barley or corn, and other plant material such as grass blades or fruit, including elderberries or blackberries. Along with the plant material consumed, Z.I. nuttalli also eat insects including Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, and especially larval Lepidoptera. Animal matter consumption increases by as much as 125% from April through August.

ASSOCIATED PLANTS & ANIMALS

Coyote Bush – *Baccharis pilularis*, *California Sagebrush* – *Artemisia californica*, *California blackberry* – *Rubus ursinus*, *Sticky Monkeyflower* – *Mimulus aurantiacus*

NESTING INFORMATION

Composed of small sticks, grasses, dead leaves, pine needles, and moss. The cup is lined with soft grasses, flower heads, hairs, duff, and leaves / place their nest in shrubbery in distances from the ground ranging from 41–335 cm / choose shrubs that are dense enough to provide effective concealment from above and below the nest.