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**THE RANDALL MUSEUM PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
DOMINIK MOSUR'S 'BIG YEAR' SETS NEW SAN FRANCISCO
RECORD**

(SAN FRANCISCO, October 27, 2011) – On Tuesday, October 25, at 3pm, east of the concrete bridge at Lake Merced, near Benny Bufano's "Penguin's Prayer", local birder Dominik Mosur caught a glimpse of the Swamp Sparrow that set the new record for the number of bird species spotted within San Francisco city limits within one year. Having seen and recorded 255 different species of birds since January, this is Mosur's 'Big Year.'

'The Big Year' is an informal competition among birders to see who can see or hear the largest number of species of birds within a single calendar year and within a specific geographical area. The previous 'SF Big Year' record was 254 species, set in 2005 by Hugh Cotter during a 'Big Year' competition.

Local Bay Area birders are not participating in an official 'Big Year' in 2011, but Mosur's year started off great, spotting more than 170 different species within January and February, so he decided to carefully log his sightings. With Mosur's auspicious Swamp Sparrow sighting on Tuesday, he has not only broken the record for the most species seen within the City of San Francisco (255), but also that of the County of San Francisco (264).

"I didn't win anything," explains Mosur. "It's kind of like beating the record for the 40-yard dash in your backyard. No one's going to give you a medal, but your competitors know about it." There is a friendly competitive spirit among birdwatchers in the Bay Area and yet they stay well connected and continually provide each other with sighting information. In fact, it was a call from a fellow birder that tipped off Mosur on the whereabouts of the Swamp Sparrow.

"Dom's successful 'Big Year' attempt has brought interest and excitement to the birding community not only in San Francisco but also in the wider Bay Area," said Hugh Cotter, SF birder and former 'SF Big Year' record holder. "It is a testament not only to his skills as a birder but also to his commitment, patience and perseverance to find and identify so many species of birds and to achieve this record with more than two months to spare."

According to Mosur, he is "a self-taught amateur ornithologist." He was first attracted to birdwatching over ten years ago when he moved to San Francisco from Southern California. Mosur said that during one of his first visits to Golden Gate Park, he bumped into an Audubon birding tour, they let him follow along, and he's been hooked ever since.

Now he goes birding nearly every day and continues to be inspired by the possibility of seeing something new. "You can go out on any given day," explained Mosur, "and find something really, really rare."

Currently on staff at the Randall Museum, Mosur cares for more than 100 animals in the Museum's Live Animal Exhibit, including fourteen species of birds. He is active with the Golden Gate Audubon Society and leads monthly birding walks at Corona Heights Park.

About the Randall Museum:

The Randall Museum is home to over 100 animals that can no longer survive in the wild. Some are injured so they cannot hunt for food or protect themselves from predators. Others were born in captivity or kept as pets so they never learned how to live in the wild. At the Museum these animals can help visitors learn about and appreciate California's diverse and disappearing wildlife. The Randall Museum is operated and owned by San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department with a mission to inspire creativity, curiosity, and a love of learning about the world around us. In fulfillment of this mission, the Museum offers an integrated program of arts and natural sciences to children, youth and adults through opportunities for hands-on learning and recreation, focusing on the cultures and environment of the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information about the Randall Museum the public may call [415.554.9600](tel:415.554.9600) or visit www.randallmuseum.org.

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