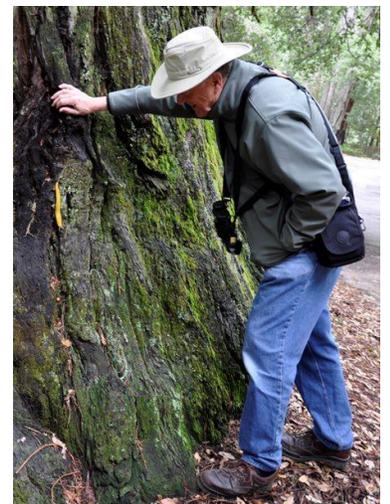


Quick Overview – Portola Redwoods State Park is tucked up & away within the Santa Cruz Mountains. It's really not that far from the busy life of Silicon Valley below, but this pristine habitat is under birded. The 2800 acre park gets between 40 – 60 inches of rain a year creating a damp, mossy, Banana Slug rich environment where Redwood, Douglas-fir and Live Oak trees thrive. In fact, both first & second growth Redwoods are found there. Most on the trip had never been to this destination adding to our adventure. We first stopped in route along Alpine Road and heard Orange Crowned Warblers, Wrentit and California Quail vocalizing from the meadow edges and the mournful “coo” of the Band Tailed Pigeon could be heard throughout our day. Afterward we dropped down into the park. The low cloud cover meant for a grey day and eventually water collecting high above on the trees dripped down resembling rain. All were prepared so this did not slow us down. We started our morning on the Iverson Trail where Wilson's Warblers & Allen's Hummingbirds were all around us. As Pacific Wren, Hairy Woodpeckers and Brown Creepers were singing around us we worked our way to the Coyote Ridge Trail. Then in the distance we heard the unmistakable call of the Pileated Woodpecker & then the bird started drumming on what sounded like one large, dead tree; the drumming echoed over the canyon. We worked our way back down the trail but unfortunately never actually saw our largest woodpecker. We then explored the Visitor's Center enjoying the many displays. All agreed a taxidermied animal shrinks in size and appears smaller than they are in real life! After lunch we took the Sequoia Nature Trail down to Pescadero Creek where we found a dozen Steelhead Rainbow Trout motionless in the deepest part of the creek. Talk about hard to see! Our next destination was the service road above the amphitheater. Golden Crowned Kinglets were above us and we all learned their call. We also met a young boy out with his parents doing their own birding. He was eager to tell us of his sightings. We soon headed home with one last stop along Alpine Rd. Overlooking a view of a mountain meadow we added Western Bluebirds & courting Red tailed Hawks to our day.

Birds Experienced –
 California Quail
 Red-tail Hawk
 White tailed Kite
 Band Tailed Pigeon
 Allen's Hummingbird
 Northern Flicker
 Acorn Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Pileated Woodpecker (H)
 Pacific Slope Flycatcher (H)
 Western Scrub-Jay
 Steller's Jay
 Common Raven
 Violet Green Swallow
 Chestnut Backed Chickadee
 Oak Titmouse
 Red Breasted Nuthatch (H)
 Pygmy Nuthatch (H)
 Brown Creeper (H)
 Pacific Wren (H)
 Golden Crowned Kinglet (H)
 Western Bluebird
 American Robin
 Hermit Thrush (H)
 Wrentit
 European Starling
 Orange Crowned Warbler (H)
 Wilson's Warbler
 Spotted Towhee (H)
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Purple Finch (H)
 Lesser Goldfinch

Heard Only = (H)



Dark eyed Junco & Trillium in bloom - both taken by trip participant Julie Bryson / Moss covered fallen tree, Redwood forest view & Richard looking at descending Banana Slug – Lisa Myers
 Watercolor painting of Steelhead Rainbow Trout by California artist & biologist Rene Reyes

