

## Nisene Marks Park, Aptos, CA. *Birding a redwood forest - June 7, 2008*

**Quick Overview** – This was a park many had never been to before and the trip filled quickly. With narrow trails meandering below the towering redwoods limiting the number of eager birders seemed the only way to go. Another challenge of a habitat like this is the sheer enormity of it all. We were surrounded by birds singing and chipping but how to find them in the midst of towering redwood trees was a another challenge onto itself. The day provided a wonderful opportunity to listen for the variations in bird calls and appreciate the differences between the various chip notes. Spending the day birding by ear was a great way for folks to improve this skill. The skies were bright and beautiful but in this habitat birders find themselves walking amongst ferns and clover in the shadows of the giant redwoods and locating movement amongst the evergreens and Alders. Walking through our local history was also part of the day's experience as we were surrounded by the remains of the old growth Redwood Trees which were all gone by the 1920's, but we can be thankful that areas like Nisene Marks Park were allowed to remain free from developers so the forest could come back to life. We were humbled to know many people in the world have never seen a Coastal Redwood Tree. There are not as many avian species in a redwood forest, but what you do find is pretty special. I thank everyone for coming out and spending some time in nature.



Wilson's Warblers were observed throughout our entire day.

Picture provided above by bay area photographer Rob Pavey



A few of us also watched a Garter Snake cross the trail



### Memorable Observations!

- A Copper's Hawk staying close to a specific area, possibly had a hidden nest
- Wilson's Warblers here for the breeding season were the common bird of the day!
- Hearing the beautiful songs of Swainson's Thrush & Winter Wrens
- The remaining stumps of the old growth redwoods now surrounded by new trees
- Solving the mystery and finding the grosbeak responsible for the odd vocalizations
- Snakes, Banana Slugs, butterflies, wild flowers, fish, the Budweiser dog.....we experienced more than just birds.

**Total Species Counted for the Day = 33 includes heard only (H)**  
*Birds are listed in the taxonomic order currently recognized by the AOU*

California Quail (H)	Nuttall's Woodpecker (H)	Common Raven (H)	Wilson's Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker (H)	Violet Green Swallow	Yellow Warbler
Osprey fly over	Acorn Woodpecker	Chestnut backed Chickadee	Spotted Towhee
Red Shouldered Hawk	Pacific Slope Flycatcher	White Breasted Nuthatch	California Towhee
Cooper's Hawk	Cassin's Vireo	Brown Creeper	Song Sparrow
Band Tailed Pigeon	Warbling Vireo	Winter Wren (H)	Dark-eyed Junco
Mourning Dove (H)	Band Tailed Pigeon	American Robin	Black Headed Grosbeak
Rufous Hummingbird	Mourning Dove (H)	Swainson's Thrush	Purple Finch
	Steller's Jay		