

Quick Overview – This Let's Go Birding / Los Gatos Birdwatcher adventure had us going deep into the Santa Cruz Mountains to bird the “under-birded” Portola Redwoods State Park. This was the first time many had ever been to this beautiful & very secluded area. We wanted to find the species that make this rainforest their summer home. First we stopped along Skyline Blvd. to scan the beautiful California landscape and heard a distant Pileated Woodpecker calling and also had great looks at Vaux’s Swift. Later as we drove near the entrance of the park two families of California Quail crossed our path with newly hatched chicks so tiny they took our breath away. Once inside the park we birded the Sequoia Nature Trail, stopped in at the Visitor’s Center and enjoyed a picnic lunch under the redwoods. Folks learned about the on-going efforts to save the ocean going Marbled Murrelet that use these forests to nest. We left the area “crumb-clean” thus providing no food to attract the Corvids who prey on murrelet chicks. We had wonderful moments with Swainson’s Thrush, Brown Creeper’s, Wilson’s Warbler & Pacific Slope Flycatchers. On our way home we found a Black Throated Grey Warbler & stopped at the open space dedicated to Audrey Rust, the past President of Peninsula Open Space Trust, 1987-2011. Here we found a new walking path, native plants, a bathroom & a view to the ocean.

- Birds Observed –**
- Mallard
 - California Quail
 - Turkey Vulture
 - Red-tail Hawk
 - Rock Pigeon
 - Band Tailed Pigeon
 - Anna’s Hummingbird
 - Vaux’s Swift
 - Nuttall’s Woodpecker
 - Northern Flicker
 - Acorn Woodpecker
 - Pileated Woodpecker (H)
 - Pacific Slope Flycatcher
 - Ash Throated Flycatcher
 - Western Scrub-Jay
 - Steller’s Jay
 - Common Raven
 - Cliff Swallow
 - Brown Creeper
 - Chestnut Backed Chickadee
 - Pygmy Nuthatch (H)
 - Bewick’s Wren
 - Pacific Wren
 - Western Bluebird
 - Swainson’s Thrush
 - European Starling
 - Wrentit (H)
 - Wilson’s Warbler
 - Black Throated Grey Warbler
 - Spotted Towhee
 - California Towhee
 - Dark-eyed Junco
 - Black Headed Grosbeak
 - House Finch
 - Purple Finch
 - Lesser Goldfinch
 - (H) = heard only



Images of our day - California Redwood Trees looking up / The group having a picnic lunch under the forest canopy & making sure to leave no crumbs behind
 The Portola Redwoods State Park Visitor’s Center provides folks with a close-up view of the many different kinds of animals that make this area their home
 We found one very large Banana Slug as it crossed the trail / a Western Fence Lizard well camouflaged on-top of the landscape material used around the open space
 dedicated to former POST President Audrey Rust & a view west from the same open space – all taken by Lisa Myers