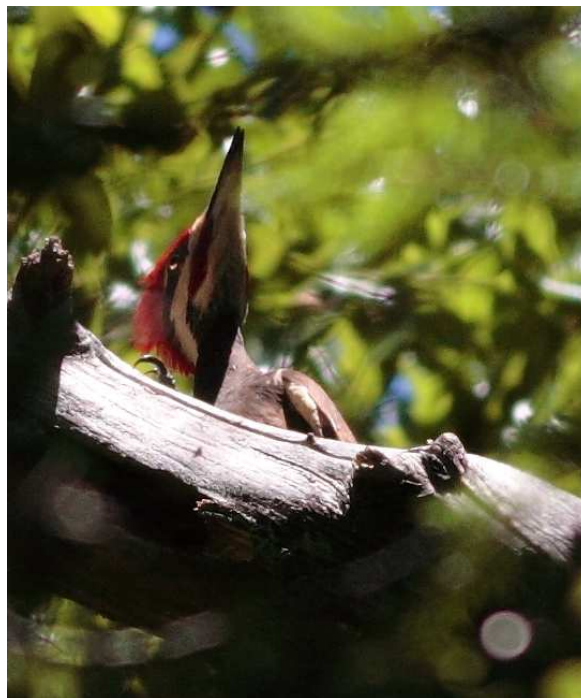


**Quick Overview** – Established in 1902, Big Basin State Park is California's 1<sup>st</sup> State Park and according to their web page, is "home to the largest continuous stand of ancient coast redwoods south of San Francisco, consisting of over 18,000 acres of old growth and recovering redwood forest, with mixed conifer, oaks, chaparral, and riparian habitats. Elevations in the park vary from sea level to over 2,000 feet." For Bay Area birders having this type of park right in our own backyard is quite a treasure. We planned our day here so we could escape possible warm temperatures in the valley and to try our luck at finding the species that live in this high altitude habitat. We started our morning at Big Basin walking the Redwood Trail so that we could experience the historic Redwood Trees living in the park today. While walking the trail we spent most of our energies birding by ear. Pacific Wrens, Swainson's thrush and Pygmy Nuthatch were all heard long before we caught glimpses of each species. We also had a great interaction with a singing male Wilson's Warbler looking quite handsome amongst the blooming wild Azaleas. After the morning walk we took time to visit the museum and learn about the incredible breeding behavior of the Marble Murrelet within these very redwoods and the plight of the species today. We also got to see the many study skins of the animals that can be found in the area. After lunch we took the North Escape Road to the Gazos Creek Trail and worked our way up hill along a little traveled dirt road. For awhile it was just us and a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers. We could hear them working on some wood, then they vocalized and eventually flew. At over 16 inches in length, these woodpeckers are a glorious sight to see. We also observed a "bugging" Pacific Slope Flycatcher who was much more interested in feeding than us. We worked our way back to the cars and found the park alive with excited children & vacationing families all ready for a night under the stars.



**Memorable Observations!**

- Redwood Trees – really, really big trees!
- The wild Azaleas were blooming throughout the park
- Wilson's Warbler flirting around us and within an Azalea
- Finding the Swainson's Thrush and listening to its song
- Chestnut Backed Chickadee families throughout
- A study between Hairy & Pileated Woodpeckers
- Ending our day with a group of Brown Creepers

**Total Species Counted for the Day = 19**  
**includes heard only (H)**

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Turkey Vulture           | Chestnut Backed Chickadee |
| Band Tailed Pigeon       | Pygmy Nuthatch (H)        |
| Belted Kingfisher (H)    | Brown Creeper             |
| Pileated Woodpecker      | Pacific Wren              |
| Hairy Woodpecker         | Swainson's Thrush         |
| Acorn Woodpecker         | Wilson's Warbler          |
| Pacific Slope Flycatcher | Orange Crown Warbler (H)  |
| Warbling Vireo (H)       | Spotted Towhee            |
| Steller's Jay            | Dark-Eyed Junco           |
| Common Raven             |                           |

*Images were taken by trip participants during our day.*  
*Pileated Woodpecker above – Nate Sanders.*  
*Wilson's Warbler & Mountain Azalea – Ellen Batemen*