

**Quick Overview** – *Let's Go Birding* and Freddy's Howell's, *Los Gatos Birdwatcher* participants headed to the coast to spend this summer day birding the California redwoods located at Nisene Marks Park in Aptos, CA. The forecast called for 100 degree temperatures inland, so we were all happy to know we would have coastal breezes in our favor. Nisene Marks Park consists of second growth redwood trees. All the old growth redwood was taken out by the lumber companies by the mid 1920's so the trees that we find here today have grown since that time. It's a beautiful park with lots of shade, ferns, running creeks and on this day FEW BIRDS; a bird leaders nightmare! We did however start the morning with calling juvenile Cooper's Hawks. We located the nest and could see that the young birds were almost ready to fledge. As an adult would fly near, the young birds would get loud and aggressive as they competed for food. This was an exciting way to start the morning, but after we moved on from the nest site we found most of the birds were quite mysterious this day. The few Winter Wrens that we found were all quiet and sulking near the ground. Acting like mice they made us work to get a glimpse. The most common bird of the day was the Pacific Slope Flycatcher. Hearing them around us was part of every moment, finding them in the redwoods proved to be another challenge that the group soon overcame! We had great views of a Brown Creeper, a Swainson's Thrush and a female Purple Finch, but all in all it was a day spent in nature listening for vocalizations and birding by ear. The park was filled with hikers and joggers and dog walkers, and our group enjoyed escaping the valley heat, and for many getting to visit this open space for the first time.



### Memorable Observations!

- Active Cooper's Hawk nest
- Wilson's Warbler bugging along the trail
- FINALLY - a visual on a Pacific Slope Flycatcher
- Swainson's Thrush quietly watching us
- A Brussels Griffon puppy!



**Total Species Counted for the Day = 25  
includes heard only (H)**

Turkey Vulture	Common Raven (H)
Cooper's Hawk	Violet Green Swallow
Killdeer	Chestnut Backed Chickadee
Rock Pigeon	Bushtit
Mourning Dove	Brown Creeper
Anna's Hummingbird	Winter Wren
Northern Flicker (H)	Swainson's Thrush
Acorn Woodpecker (H)	Wilson's Warbler
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	Spotted Towhee (H)
Warbling Vireo (H)	California Towhee
Cassin's Vireo (H)	Dark-Eyed Junco
Steller's Jay	Purple Finch
American Crow in route	

*Brown Creeper, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, juvenile Cooper's Hawk & Chestnut Backed Chickadee images all provided by Tom Grey and represent some of the species we encountered at Nisene Marks Park, Aptos, CA.*