



Final Trip Report – Sanborn Park

In search of the Pileated Woodpecker – July 24, 2011

Quick Overview – This was a morning adventure into the Santa Cruz Mountains in search of the Pileated Woodpecker. Located on the western edge of Santa Clara County, this beautiful park provides the preferred habitat of this illusive woodpecker and birders are reporting sightings of the species throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains on a more regular basis than previously recorded. We spent the morning walking trails within Sanborn Park as we listened for any indication of the species, but on this day we unfortunately could not find a Pileated. We did however have great moments with species not often observed. A pair of Wrentits were heard AND observed in addition to a Warbling Vireo. This vireo was a life bird for many and although silent, we had great looks at this summer visitor. We also shared the trail on numerous occasions with coveys of California Quail; many young quail feeding as the adults kept their eyes on us. A Cooper's Hawk also came out and flew circles above until it took off after a Red Tail Hawk. We also shared the park with many campers out enjoying nature. Kids with smiles on their faces, dogs with sticks and the smell of bacon wafting throughout the mountain air! We had a great morning, but we'll have to go back another time to find our target bird.



*Warbling Vireo image above provided by Bill Schmoker
Image taken from the trail at Sanborn Park
by Lisa Myers*

Pileated Woodpecker Facts!

- Size – 16 – 19 inches in length
- Eats mainly insects
- Nest in cavity of dead or dying tree
- Incubates up to 4 eggs for 15 – 18 days
- Pairs will remain together throughout the year

***Total Species Counted for the Day = 26
includes heard only (H)***

California Quail	Steller's Jay
Red Tail Hawk	Common Raven (H)
Cooper's Hawk	Chestnut Backed Chickadee
Band Tailed Pigeon	Brown Creeper
Mourning Dove	Pacific Wren (H)
Anna's Hummingbird	Bewick's Wren
Nuttall's Woodpecker (H)	Wrentit
Northern Flicker (H)	Western Bluebird
Acorn Woodpecker	American Robin
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	Spotted Towhee
Western Wood Pewee (H)	Dark-Eyed Junco
Warbling Vireo	Brewer's Blackbird
Western Scrub Jay	Lesser Goldfinch