Marin Audubon Society Field Trip Report:  May 24, 2014
Muir Woods and Muir Beach
Trip Leaders:  Jim White and Bob Battagin

The first of Jim and Bob's series of field trips to explore birding in a variety of Marin habitats was held at Muir Woods and Muir Beach. The A+ weather that day pretty much guaranteed a splendid time for all of the 35 birders attending, many of whom eagerly arrived well before the 8:30 gathering time.

One of our first sightings was a cooperative Pacific Wren encountered in the lower parking lot at Muir Woods along with a Wilson's Warbler and Pacific Slope Flycatcher. Traveling the short distance to Santos Meadows, we then walked along the newly renovated Redwood Creek Trail where Swainson's Thrushes were both seen and heard.

The group then continued on to Muir Beach where we walked on the new trail encircling the restored marsh area, watching Cliff Swallows collecting mud for their nests. During lunch at the new picnic area adjacent to the beach, we enjoyed watching diving pelicans and observed Pigeon Guillemots on nearby offshore rocks.

This pleasant day of birding ended with a stop at the Muir Beach Overlook where we were treated with a surprise flyover by an Osprey and the speedy aerial flight of White-Throated Swifts. A total of 61 species of birds were observed at the four locations we visited helping to make the day particularly interesting and fun for all of us. Next month you might want to join us at Five Brooks and Bear Valley!

By Jane Medley