

**CALIFORNIA
JEWELS OF THE
WILD WEST TRIP
REPORT
2024**

Darlingtonia californica

Day 1

Arrival in San Francisco

We all arrived from Norway and just down the road in Berkeley. Meeting up for the first time we walked a short distance to a local restaurant for some very large and tasty pizzas. Plenty left over for lunch the next day.

Day 2

To Fort Bragg

Leaving good and early the next day we left the city behind, crossing over the iconic Golden Gate Bridge and into undulating hills swathed in golden grasses with patches of oak woodland – a classic scene of California, even if all of the grasses were non-native European invasives! Native flora does fight it out successfully in places, battling through stands of *Raphanus raphanistrum* (wild radish) that I also see filling the verges in my home city of Antalya. *Conium maculatum* was also abundant, but fighting it out with this was the even more robust native *Heracelum maximum*. Don't mess with a hogweed! After a while we took a short break to photograph *Diplacus aurantiacus*, a handsome shrubby monkey flower that coats rocky slopes and banks in a veneer of apricot-yellow flowers. European species such as *Parentucellia viscosa* and *Centaureum pulchellum* grew alongside. A bit further on and there was a lovely drift of *Clarkia amoena* crowding a bank, the large pink cups marked inside with cerise patches. A few white-grey leaved *Dudleya farinosa* also grew on the rocks together with *Eriogonum cinereum*. The road wound along the scenic coast, where calm waters lapped the beaches, rising over headlands where many plants encrusted the banks and rocks and then descending to pretty river valleys and marshes. On one rise we stopped for the dazzling red flowers of *Castilleja latifolia*, growing in dense shrubby tufts, sometimes mingling effectively with *Diplacus aurantiacus* to create hot-colour vignettes. However, we were after a different kind of hot colour and with a bit of persistence eventually found one late-flowering *Lilium maritimum* growing in bishop pine woods.

After lunch we pushed on to Fort Bragg, checked in to our hotel and then set off for a pleasant coastal walk. It was a busy 4th July holiday but the crowds were spread over a wide area and we headed off to a less visited part with good flora. At first there was only patches of *Grindelia stricta* and tufts of *Erigeron glaucum*, but the latter grew in its extent as we progressed reaching an area of



Angelica hendersonii

cliff top vegetation with plentiful daisies, plus *Lupinus littoralis*, *Armeria maritima*, pretty pink *Sidalcea* sp and the first *Cirsium quercetorum* a rather handsome pale flowered thistle. More and better thistles were found forming low mounds and a little further on was a thick drift of *Polygonum paronychia* growing with the dazzling scarlet of *Castilleja mendocinensis*. Moving across the headland there were (and had been all along) fine views along the rocky indented coastline, all the better for the late afternoon light. On one little rock outcrop was a superb and pristine plant of *Angelica hendersonii*, a handsome umbel with the perfect backdrop of waves rushing up the beach. *Dudleya farinosa* was also very common the rocks. There was one final treat to come with a thriving colony of gorgeous, rich pink *Allium dichlamydidium* (coast onion) growing among a thick blanket of *Carpobrotus edulis*.

From here we walked back and then went out for a very nice dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 3 To Arcata

A fine calm morning saw us driving along the coast, stopping beside a large rock that emerged from the sands. On it was a colony of *Triteleia laxa*, large mounds of *Eriogonum latifolium* and some superb flowery rosettes of *Dudleya farinosa*, though the latter were hard to get close to. Other rocks washed by the waves also held large colonies of this attractive succulent. We followed the coast for a while, much of it with the golden tints of the abundant *Diplacus aurantiacus*. Turning off we entered a different realm, where dye straight redwoods headed skywards creating shade and encouraging a lush flora. This continued for a while, but began to transition as we continued inland, the forest mix shifting from redwoods to Douglas fir mixed with tan oaks. A side track took us across a wooden bridge and here we saw a fine specimen of *Lilium pardalinum* with a perfect fresh flower. Other lilies were a bit further on but rather choked among the brambles (though a local



Lilium kelloggii

garden had a magnificent stand of them attended by swallowtail butterflies). Our destination was the Angelo Preserve, a 7000-acre tract of intact woodland, where we had been granted access and so drove through the tall forests on a narrow track, with a pretty creek to one side. Pulling up in an area of old growth forest there were many impressive and very tall *Arbutus menziesii*, the rough brown bark peeling away to reveal gorgeous, smooth reddish trunks. They mingled with some large (to very large) *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and other oaks too. We had a short wander along a track also finding interesting thick mosses (*Leptodon*) and pretty rosettes of *Goodyera oblongifolia*. However, it was already very warm so we drove back out, stopping by a cooler bridge to look at *Aralia californica* and then found a shady spot further along the road for some lunch.

There was a final stop for a wonderful bank of mixed ferns and hefty *Heracleum maximum*. The ferns were thick and lush with abundant *Adiantum aleuticum* as well as *Athyrium filix-femina* and *Polystichum munitum* and among all of these the dainty red bells of *Aquilegia formosa*, little spikes of *Boykinia occidentalis* and delicate *Vancouveria hexandrum* in flower above unusual angular foliage. Now we had to drive for a bit, reaching the faster '101' and that continued north to Arcata. A stop at a gas station had the thermometer at 41 celsius (106 F), but things cooled off considerably by the time we reached Arcata, turning off and following a road inland to some cool shady redwoods. Here we found one of the jewels of the tour; the lovely *Lilium kelloggii* the many lovely flowers with varying degrees of speckling and yellow banding on the reflexed pink tepals. Growing alongside these were the scrambling stems of *Lathyrus sulphureus*. The only negative was the local deer appeared to eaten quite a few of the larger lily plants, but luckily we did find one superb larger specimen to complete the day.

From here it was on to the casino (and a rather slow check in).

Day 4 Onion Mountain

An eventful day! Driving out was straightforward enough, all be it along a very winding road, but we were soon beginning our climb on Onion Mountain and stopping for a fine stand of *Aralia californica* that was buzzing with bees,

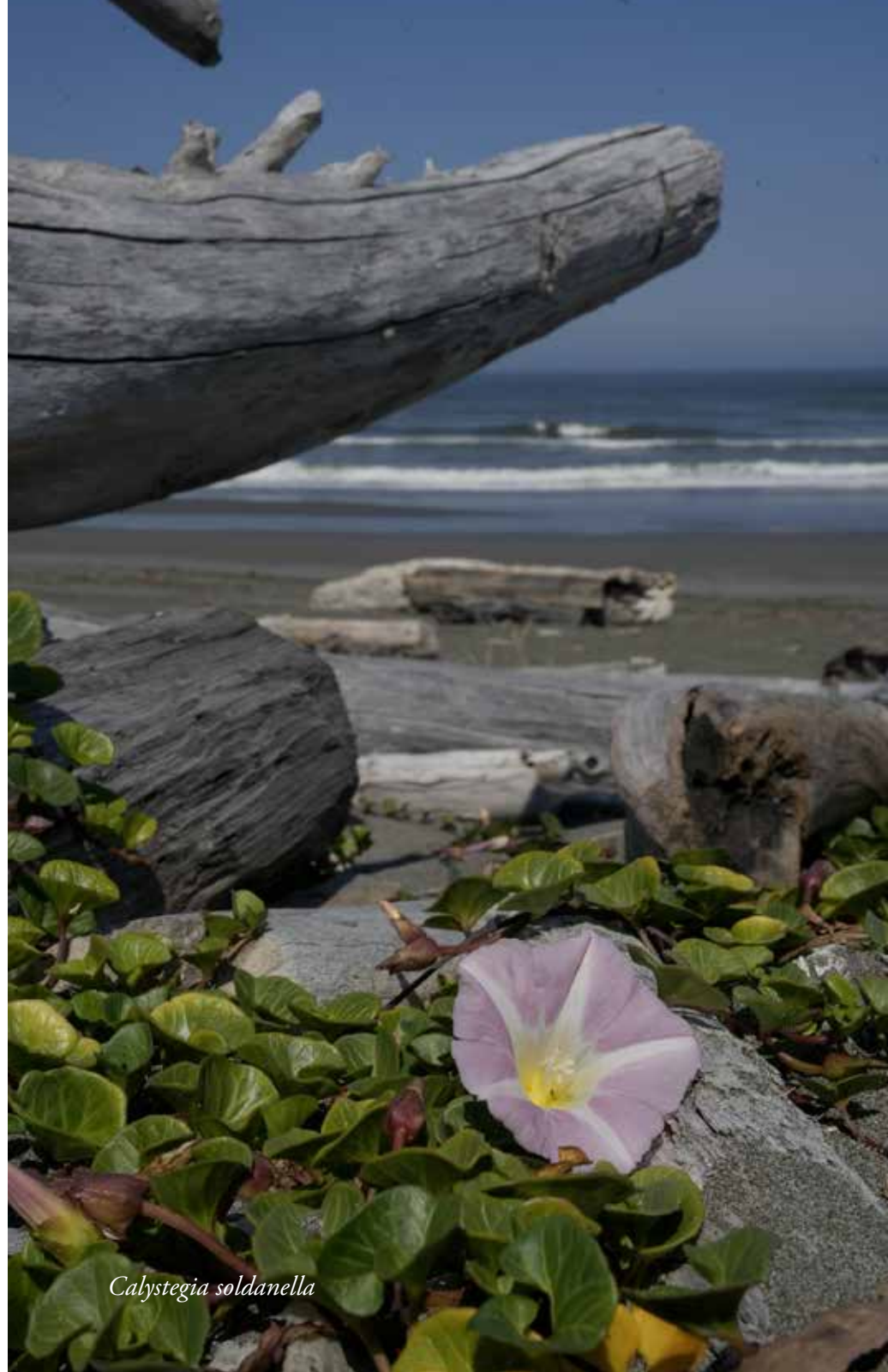


Lilium rubescens

butterflies and other insects. It was already warm and would only get warmer as the heatwave continued. Nonetheless we would persevere. Our next stop was for the first (or many) *Lilium rubescens*, a charming species with flowers that always face upwards even if the plant leans over. They grew with a few *Silene laciniata* and fragrant *Rhododendron occidentale*. As we continued we saw more and more lilies and it was hard to resist stopping, so we didn't. A bit further and they grew with a fine stand of *Veratrum insolitum* in full and perfect flower and it's here that we also saw a pollinating fly burrowing deep into the lily flowers. The heat didn't deter another stop for *Lilium rubescens*, which we found growing with *L. washingtonianum* and a yellow form of the lovely *L. bolanderi*. At first we seemed short on the latter with no more seen (and evidence of vermin 'cleaning' which may have eliminated many. However, reaching the track for Onion Lake we then spotted a group of four of the typical cherry-red form. It was hot even up here (last time I had visited it had been in chilly mist!), but luckily there was a shady spot down by the marsh to park and have lunch.

Afterwards we braved the warmth and set about photographing the many and varied forms of *Lilium pardalinum* that grew here, with forms akin to subsp. *shastense* and subsp. *wigginsii* all growing together with intermediates of the two. A unique assemblage of taxa, that are normally quite separate. They grew with plentiful *Allium vallisum* and a few white *Platanthera dilatata*, whilst blue *Penstemon heterodoxus* grew on drier ground. Moving on we found a fine three flowered *Lilium bolanderi* growing near *Silene greenei* and then further on a wonderful population of many of the former, seemingly responding to a spring burn in an area of forest. There were various colour forms all the more striking in their post-apocalyptic environment of charcoaled trunks. A few *Xerophyllum tenax* were also found before we descended again (stopping for just one more good yellow *Lilium bolanderi* and then lower down one more population of *L. rubescens*.

All that was left was to descend through the impressive forests with many very tall trees. Indeed these forests are very rich with a great diversity of coniferous trees. Making our way to Willow Creek for ice cream there was a sudden change of plan. A fire on the '299' meant the road was closed and we had to make a detour. No problem I thought there is a back road to the coast. And there is, except once we reached the road a shrub obscuring a sign meant we took the



Calystegia soldanella

wrong road for 24 kms (15 miles) and had to backtrack (before we noticed the sign). On the right road, we climbed up to nine hundred metres through forests and then the road opened out into a very different and stunning grassland among which grew abundant *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, looking especially attractive in the (very) late afternoon light. A quick stop and then we were off, seeing *Lilium washingtonianum* in flower and then a lot further on lots of *L. columbianum* lining the roadside in an area of redwoods. There was no time to stop (we'd come back tomorrow) but that did mean five species of lily in flower in one day!

Dinner was late (and in out of desperation) in McDonald's! Regardless it had been a good if long day.

Day 5 Redwoods I

A contrasting botanical day began with a trip to the beach and there wonderful low dune system near Eureka called Table Bluff. Here the sands were thickly coated in vegetation with abundant loose mounds of *Eriogonum latifolium* the dominant plant. Among these grew branching tufts of the unusual *Castilleja exserens* subsp. *latifolia*, the trailing stems of sand verberna *Abronia latifolia* with balls of sulphurous flowers as well as the silvery foliage of *Ambrosia chamissonis* and feathery *Tanacetum bipinnatum*. Moving further across the dunes and closer to the beach the attractive round foliage of *Calystegia soldanella* appeared and we found many lovely pink and white funnel-shaped flowers creeping among the driftwood with the gently rushing breakers beyond.

Moving on, we drove north along the scenic coastal highway passing beaches, rivers and wetlands with forests cloaking the hills. Turning off we ascended into these hills entering the realm of the redwoods with a thick understorey of ferns. Alongside the road on both sides were stands of many *Lilium columbianum* and we found a place to stop and enjoy these and take lunch. There was even an extra dark form with prominent purplish patches on the tepals. However, it



was all to get bigger and better, starting with a superb tract of forest with some colossal redwoods, beneath which grew a dense carpet of large ferns; *Polystichum munitum*. *Oxalis oregano* formed low mats throughout as we walked along, jaws dropping at the magnificent tress including one that was 1500 years old and 7.5 metres (24 feet) in diameter. The path continued through more sections of skyscraping trees and then we drove on still held within this spectacular arboreal landscape. A tall *Lilium columbianum* brought us to a halt, though we need not have bothered with this as just little further were the best stands we had seen, with many tall multi-flowered plants on show. Time was spent photographing these and trying to capture the impressive backdrop of towering trees and their lush understorey.

There was time for a quick look at the fields of cultivated *Lilium longiflorum* just outside of town before making our way to our hotel and our huge rooms.

Day 6 Redwoods II & Bear Basin

A pleasantly cool start to the day, the temperature along the coast much fresher, but deceptive! It is this cooler band of typically moist air that sustains the incredible redwood forests and that is where we began the day, driving into another tree wonderland with soaring trunks swathed in morning mists with the first rays of sunlight burst through. We took a walk into a particularly beautiful tract passing many magnificent redwoods along with some hefty western hemlock and lovely *Acer macrophyllum*, whose trunks we thickly wrapped in reddish mosses. The understorey was as ever a dense mass of ferns, mainly *Polystichum munitum*, but with big patches of *Blechnum spicant* and *Athyrium filix-femina* too. The route took in some truly awe-inspiring goliaths several hundreds of years old and after a while it all rather numbed the senses and one just gazed in wonder.

Leaving the cool of the woods we exited and then stopped for a colony of *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *vollmeri* growing with

Sunlight through the redwoods



a thriving colony of *Darlingtonia californica*, with many elegantly sculpted pitchers sporting impressive floral 'moustaches'. *Cypripedium californicum* also grew here but had finished flowering a couple of weeks ago. Still in flower a bit further on was a drift of *Erythranthe grandiflora*. We had had good lily luck so far, but it deserted us when we went to find the white form of *Lilium kelloggii*, with not a single plant on show. No matter there was plenty more to see and after a shady lunch we took another road into the hills. This was somewhat surreal as we had to pass through a vast burnt area (the same place had been tall green trees when I last visited) a reminder of the serious wildfire problem California has. Huge areas of tree had been incinerated with only the beginnings of regenerating shrubs such as *Arbutus menziesii*. Higher and we reached a greener patch where there was a lovely drift of *Apocynum androsaefolium*, which was alive with several different kinds of butterflies, no doubt drawn by its sweet scent, with wafts of fragrance filling the air. Also nearby was the dainty twinflower; *Linnaea borealis* and small *Campanula scouleri*. The burnt areas mixed with greener parts as the flames seem to have almost been at random much of the time. Along a rocky face we stopped for *Dicentra formosa* growing with the diminutive yellow *Diplacus xxx*, followed by a stunning display of *Allium amplexans* that formed thick carpeting drifts from the road, up the rocks and onto the slope above, not doubt in response to the burn. Among this dense mass grew a fine buckwheat; *Eriogonum compositum*, bushes of *Holodiscus discolor* with foamy flowers and a more delicate *Sidalcea* sp. Good clumps of *Castilleja miniata* lined the road and there were stands of *Rubus parviflorus* (thimble berry) and fleshy rosettes of *Lewisia cotyledon*. The area opened up again and we followed the dirt track until we found a superb stand of *Lilium washingtonianum* subsp. *purpurascens* in flower, the ivory flowers ageing to rosy-pink.

There was still more to come and after a brief stop for the last flowers of *Penstemon davisiana*, we descended a little and then stopped where the ground seemed to have a blue haze. It was an area of vernal pool, long since dried up but now dressed in countless very pretty *Downingia bacigalupii*, the lilac-blue flowers generously splashed with gold. I had longed to see this type of vernal pool plant, typically the last to appear.



Our route back took us past a small botanical trail that provided a final flourish to the day with a fine (and dense) colony of *Darlingtonia californica* crammed into a bog with several *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *vollmeri*, the tall stems of *Rudbeckia californica* and lacey leaved Port Orford cedars; *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*. The road then wound through one final tract of wonderful redwoods before reaching town.

The temperature had dropped significantly.

Day 7 Oregon Loop

We set off a touch earlier than usual to make the most of cooler hours and we knew we would be arriving somewhere much warmer than Crescent City. Once again we wound through the stunning redwood forests, which slowly petered out into Douglas fir, pine and madrone gaining a little altitude as we followed the Smith river inland. Entering Oregon a much quieter side turn brought us to a fine population of *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *vollmeri* that was crowding a ditch. Growing with the lovely red-suffused lilies were tall *Rudbeckia californica* and the slender pink spikes of *Castilleja elata* as well as lots of the shrub; *Spiraea douglasii* with dense clusters of pink flowers. Nearby, were ponds with floating leaves of *Nuphar polysepala* and a complete contrast to this wet habitat came next were a stark serpentine flat held *Eriogonum umbellatum* and drifts of aromatic *Trichostema lanceolata*. In an area of scattered Jeffrey pines (*Pinus jeffreyi*) we found both robust *Asclepias speciosus* and the much more delicate *A. fascicularis*. By now it was warming up quickly, but we made several short stops as we drove onto the pass entering another vast tract of burned forest from a fire five years ago, but one that had a fast greening understory finding clumps of *Campanula prenanthoides*, drifts of *Apocynum androsaefolium* again a buzz with butterflies, then a few scarlet *Castilleja miniata* (and one *Phlox adsurgens*) with great swathes of *Eriogonum nudum* lining the route. A dirt road then took us slowly higher seeing *Notochelone nemorosa*, then the electric blue of *Penstemon laetum* which was a magnet for pollinators including pollen wasps and pretty shining green bees. The rather scruffy *Penstemon anguineus* was also frequent, but on reaching the high point at just over 1700 metres (5600 feet) we found a colourful roadside that included the



lovely *P. davisiana*, together with pretty drifts of *Calyptridium monospermum*, golden *Eriophyllum lanatum*, *Castilleja miniata* and a couple of large clumps of *Angelica tomentosa*. Lunch was taken with lots of penstemons and the constant hum of busy pollinating insects.

Just below the pass (and back into California) we stopped for the first group of orange *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *wigginsii* growing in a seep with *Stachys rigida*. There were more lilies at the larger wetland lower down, including a striking form with large cherry-red blotches on its tepals. A final good stand followed and then it was time to complete our drive down, wending our way along a forested and rocky river valley, through small settlements until we reached the faster route '5' that whisked us the final distance. All the while the imposing bulk of Mount Shasta was with us, with large snow patches on its higher reaches and slowly changing shape as we moved along.

Day 8 Scott Mountains

Another varied plant day took advantage of the relative cool of the morning with a visit to an area of sage brush and scattered juniper where we walked up a rocky track and found the lovely *Calochortus macrocarpus*. The fast advancing season this year meant there were only a few, but nonetheless the flowers were in good condition. Beyond the calochortuses Mount Shasta loomed up in the haze and all around was a rambling volcanic landscape of random cinder cones. From here we drove to the taller forests of Scott Mountain (which had narrowly escaped burning down it seemed, with the boundaries of a fire stopping short of destroying another fine tract of trees. And, it was in the damp flushes among these trees that we found our first fiery *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *shastense*, some of them also attended by pollinating fritillary butterflies. The slender spikes of *Hastingsia alba* were also a magnet for butterflies, with many skippers and burnet moths crowding the dingy white flowers. More good stands of lilies were found further on and then we drove for a bit along the rough track before reaching a broad grassy area that flanked a bog. Here, the meadows were full of flowers with many slender spikes of *Sidalcea oregano* and the gold of *Helenium bigelovii* mingling together and choking the stream that ran through the area were hundreds of *Darlingtonia californica*, the line of them

Calochortus macrocarpus



discernible as snake of swollen, glossy heads. Also in the bog were *Platanthera dilatata* and slender forms of *Aconitum columbianum*, whilst some immense old Jeffrey pines stood on drier ground.

Lunch was in the shade and it was a pleasant temperature, though a stop for the dense tangles of the parasite *Phoradendron leucarpum* subsp. *tomentosum* on the way down showed it was much warmer in the lowlands and views of Mount Shasta were still on the hazy side. An ice cream stop later and we were driving back up into the hills on a different road, wending our way up into diverse coniferous woods of fir, Douglas fir and pines. *Penstemon azureus* and delicate pink and white *Orthocarpus cuspidatus* were seen alongside the swollen pods (and white flowers) of *Astragalus whitneyi*. Then it was onto a wonderful area with just about everything, beginning with the intense scarlet of *Ipomopsis aggregata* on the gravelly roadside, whilst in the bogs that flanked it grew a hidden garden. Glancing up slope we could see many lovely orange *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *shastense* bursting from among a light shrubbery of *Spiraea splendens* and climbing up we could see the incredible extent of the *Darlingtonia californica* population they grew alongside with thousands of pitchers stretching up the slope for at least a hundred metres (maybe further as the top was not clear), with three bogs like this in parallel. Growing among this amazing array of swollen emerald cobras with tufts and patches of slender yellow *Narthecium californicum*. A magical sight.

The late afternoon light was now casting softer shadows across the landscape as we made our way back. Unfortunately, the only dampener on the day was dinner and me longing for the sort of efficient service I enjoy in Turkey.

Day 9 Lassen National Park

Taking the more scenic back road to Lassen we drove through tall stands of coniferous forests with occasional views of Mount Shasta and stopped at a couple of pleasant waterfalls, before pushing on through the trees. A stand of the *Lilium washingtonianum* brought us to a stop. There were



Darlingtonia californica & *Narthecium californicum*

some fine specimens, though it did require some effort to get up the bank as the ground was uncompacted ash rubble, with two steps up and one back each time. The forests yielded to the all too familiar landscape of old burned areas and then some areas of lava flow where the attractive shrub *Chamaebatiaria millefolium* was flowering well. It was then on to Lassen and a scenic drive across the park. There had been recent big fires here too, but on the edge of one where the stark emerald of intact vegetation met the carbonised trees was a superb stand of *Veratrum californicum* bursting with flowers. A bit further on and some pristine tall spikes of *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *shastense* were glowing orange alongside the white of *Aconitum columbianum* and in the opposite woods was lots of *Delphinium gracilentum* too. There had been a lot of late snow in Lassen and this no doubt contributed to a good flowering, with lots of lupines, astragalus and penstemon on show. We continued all the way to the superb look out across Helen Lake to Lassen Peak. Just beyond the normally bustling car park at the head of the Bumpass Hell trail was eerily quiet since the trail was closed and was perfect for a cool lunch spot with the temperature a very pleasant 25 C (78 F).

It seemed worth checking the snows on the north slope after lunch and we descended a short way to where *Erythronium purpurascens* was flowering near a snow patch together with pretty little *Allium campanulatum*, blue *Hackelia velutina* and pale pink *Claytonia lanceolata*. Big stands of golden *Balsamorhiza sagittata* coloured the slopes in gold with slim spikes of whitish *Lupinus arbustus* and higher up along rivulets were lovely patches of the dwarf shrub; *Kalmia polifolia*. Above this, a small lake was nestled among the narrow mountain hemlock and was fringed with drifts of *Caltha leptosepala*. Leaving the impressive high mountain landscape behind we drove back up and over, stopping for patches of red heather; *Phyllodoce breweri*, silvery lupine; *Lupinus albifrons* and then one more look at the superb *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *shastense*, which were now in much better light. The road out of Lassen took us to the road to Redding and a swift descent on a good road. The temperature on arrival was 46 C (115 degrees F)!

Toasty.



Veratrum californicum

Day 10

To San Francisco or Grass Valley

Suzanne left on the first flight to SFO, whilst John and Hilary continued with me for two more days looking for lilies, this time in the Sierra Nevada foothills. The morning drive was through the uninspiring landscape of the (hot) central valley, with extensive grasslands and orchards of walnuts. The route climbed a bit towards Grass Valley and then a bit more as we entered a large area of coniferous forests, finding a shady spot for lunch among a grove that included some tall sugar pines (*Pinus lambertiana*). After eating, we went and looked at the trees and their outsize long cones and there was also pine drops *Pterospora andromeda* growing from the dense pine needle litter and the odd large-leaved *Viola lobata*.

Pushing on, *Lilium washingtonianum* was seen as we drove, but I could not find any at my old location and the advanced season may well have something to do with that. Indeed, it looked as though we would miss *L. parvum* var. *crocatum* too, as my location for this had been built on and the only others I could find had finished flowering. We searched for a bit and then moved to a large colony of *Lilium pardalinum* var. *giganteum* that grew in a seep beside the road. Some of the plants here were very impressive in size, reaching over two metres and there were still a good number of decent flowers. A second large colony was seen as we drove on, but this was on private land. Then a glance to the right and there was a group of *L. parvum* var. *crocatum* in a damp ditch beside the road. We managed to find a place to stop and got a chance photograph them, also seeing some fine clumps of *Angelica tomentosa*. One last floral treat was provided by some good tufts of *Monardella breweri* before we headed back to Grass Valley.

Day 11

Lake Tahoe

The last field day saw us driving up to Lake Tahoe and exploring the foothills above it. It's fair to say our first destination, Paige Meadows, was rather disappointing with little on show except for now familiar plants, though there was a good clump of *Pterospora andromeda* when we arrived and a

Kalmia polifolia



smattering of things such as *Cirsium andersonii*, delicate pink *Stephanomeria lactucina* and much further into the walk two *Calochortus leichtlinii*. I took the path to the damper meadows but found little of extra interest. How this would all change in the afternoon.

Moving on we took a quiet side road and as soon as we reached the first wet flush there was a fine stand of *Lilium parvum* growing with *Heracleum maximum*. There were many good lilies and a range of orange-red shades of the speckled bell flowers. After lunch in a shady spot the flowers really came on line with big flowery clumps *Monardella odoratissima* everywhere, slopes with drifts of *Aquilegia formosa* and spikes of deep blue *Delphinium gracilentum*, then rounding a bend there were wonderful patches of carmine *Penstemon newberryi* lining the road and hanging from rocks, including some alongside a stream in a very picturesque setting. Also along the roadside we found quite a few more *Calochortus leichtlinii* and glancing down slope there were masses flowering among the pretty fuzzy pink corymbs of *Spiraea splendens*. I couldn't resist and went down for a *Calochortus* feast, also seeing a bank with lovely pink *Erythranthe erubescens*, a few *Tritelia ixioides* and mats of a yellow *Eriogonum* were plentiful. There were many more stops, with more colonies of *Lilium parvum* sometimes growing with stands of *Veratrum californicum* and the slender white spikes of *Platanthera dilatata*, hillsides swathed in *Wyethia mollis* and then on the return leg a flash of red-pink caught our eye. It was a pristine spike of snowplant; *Sarcodes sanguinea*, a superb bonus for the day. And we weren't done yet with one final flowery flat crowded with the abundant *Monardella odoratissima*, fiery scarlet *Ipomopsis aggregata*, *Sidalcea* sp and yet more *Calochortus leichtlinii*, with brooding grey skies in the background with the lichen encrusted trunks of *Abies magnifica*.

A wonderfully flowery finale.

Day 12 Flights home

The days of hunting for lilies were over...or were they? I drove John and Hilary to SFO, picked up Pontus and then returned to the Sierra Nevada, arriving in the village of Markleeville in time for a burger. There were more lilies and great variety of high mountain flora to be found....



Sarcodes sanguinea

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Ipomopsis aggregata & Monardella odoratissima