

Central Valley Bird Highlights: June through July 2005

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WATERBIRDS

A **Least Bittern** at the Consumnes River Preserve area in Sacramento County on 12 July (JTr) was in an area where several sightings have occurred in recent years. Two **Least Terns** were flying around the Davis Wetlands in Yolo County on 20-21 June (OJ, EP, DC+) with a third joining them on 22 June for the second county record. In the Central Valley, this species is only regularly seen during summer at a location in Kings County and is extremely rare elsewhere in the valley. A few good shorebirds were in Yolo County on 22 July with a single **Sanderling**, three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at the Davis Wetlands; and three more **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and a **Baird's Sandpiper** at the Woodland Sewage Ponds (JK). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at the Davis Wetlands on 24 June (JK) was apparently the first June record for Yolo County. **Solitary Sandpipers** at the Consumnes River Preserve in Sacramento County were found on the more typical dates of 24 July and 28 July (JTr). Four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen at the Consumnes River Preserve in Sacramento County with different individuals on 22, 23-24, 26 and 28 July (JTr).

LANDBIRDS

Yolo County hit it big with two sightings of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** including one at lower Putah Creek on 22 June (RM) and another at the Cache Creek Settling Basin near Woodland on 23 July (SH). The **Common Nighthawks** discovered in May along Meiss Road in Sacramento County were still present with up to five individuals through July (JTr+). Two pairs of **Purple Martins** in the Yokohl Valley of Tulare County continued from 21 May through at least 1 July (RH) and were thought to be breeding on power line towers. Breeding **Bell's Vireos** were documented in the region for the first time in decades with a pair at a riparian restoration site near the San Joaquin River in Stanislaus County 10 June+ (PRBO). Another **Bell's Vireo** was along Putah Creek near Lake Solano, Solano County on 24 June (BC) for only the second "modern" record from that area. A male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** on the Solano County side of western Putah Creek on 12 July (BC, MC) was a first county record and one of few eastern vagrant warblers to be found in the Central Valley in July. A singing male **Blackburnian Warbler** at the Bufferlands in Sacramento County on 13 June (CC) was one of few records for the entire Central Valley. It is much rarer in the California in spring than during the fall. Two different male **Hooded Warblers** were found at the Consumnes River Preserve in Sacramento County with one on

20 June (SA, KL) and the other on 23 June (JTr, KL). A singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the Consumnes River Preserve on 21 July (JTr) was probably a post-breeding dispersing individual. This species is now a rare breeder in the valley floor in this section of the valley. A singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** near Sites, Colusa County on 10 June (FO) was in an area where one was reported in 2004. There are still only a handful of records for this county, but it is likely a regular nesting species that has been overlooked. A **Great-tailed Grackle** at the Paynes Creek Wetlands in Tehama County on 2 June (PH) was one of few county records.

Observers: Sasha Auer, Brent Campos, Mary Chambers, Chris Conard, Daryl Coldren, Steve Hampton, Pablo Herrara, Oscar Johnson, Jon King, Kirsten Lindquist, Ron Melcer, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino, John Trochet, and Point Reyes Bird Observatory interns.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo

sketch by Tim Manolis