

## Rare Bird Highlights for the Central Valley in 2009

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We here present photos of some of the rare bird highlights of the past year, inaugurating what we hope will become an annual feature in the *CVBC Bulletin*. We hope this effort will encourage as many Central Valley bird photographers as possible to submit their photos of rarities encountered in the coming months for possible publication in early 2011. Please send photographs to the photo editor, Dan Brown.



Figure 1. An adult Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) at the Davis Wastewater Treatment Ponds from 27 February to 10 March 2009 was the first for the Central Valley of a Siberian species that has only recently been documented to occur in California. This record has been accepted by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC).

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Figure 2. A Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) in juvenal plumage, observed at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Yolo Co., from 30 August to 1 September 2009 would be the first record of a juvenile bird in the lower 48 states if accepted by the CBRC (still under review).

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Figure 3. This male Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) present at the Madera Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Madera Co., from 15-23 May 2009 was a second county record, and one of few ever found in California in spectacular breeding plumage.

*photo © Gary Woods*



Figure 4. A singing Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) at North Pond, Davis, Yolo Co., from 18-30 July 2009 established the first over-summering record of this eastern vireo in the Central Valley.

photo © Roger Adamson



Figure 5. This immature male Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) was at the O'Neil Forebay, Merced Co., from 10-25 November 2009 for a first well-documented Central Valley record.

photo © John Sterling



Figure 6. An adult Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*), on right compared to a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) on the left, was found on private property 10-18 June 2009 for a first Kings County record, one of few for the Central Valley, and only the second June California record accepted by the CBRC.

*photo © Jeff Seay*

Figure 7. These two (of a brood of five) juvenile Least Bitterns (*Ixobrychus exilis*) at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Yolo Co., on 23 August 2009 provide evidence of only the second breeding attempt ever recorded in the county.

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Figure 8. This Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) was present in a backyard in Fresno, Fresno Co., for only one day, 12 March 2009. This bird established the southernmost record for California and only the second record for the Central Valley, following one near Anderson in Shasta County on 16 February 2002 (see the CVBC Bulletin, Volume 5, Number 2).

*photo © Sue Thorson*



Figure 9. A female Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) was at Beale Air Force Base, Yuba Co., 18 December 2008 through 13 February 2009 for a first county record.

*photo © John Sterling*



Figure 10. An American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) at the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery, San Joaquin Co., from 24 October 2009 to 16 January 2010 was one of few records for the Central Valley.

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