

Central Valley Bird Highlights: June through July 2011

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The immature male **Black Scoter** found in last spring at Kutras Lake, Shasta County remained through the summer (DMr). Juvenile **Brown Pelicans** made multiple splashes in the region with one in West Sacramento on 2 June (DA) that was taken to a wildlife center for treatment and established the first documented record for Yolo County, another was on Lincoln Lake in Stockton in San Joaquin County on 29 June (LB), one at Little Panoche Res. in Fresno County from 11-28 July (MT), and Lodi WTP in San Joaquin County from 20-31 July (LP, JRo). The **Black Oystercatchers** found in May in Benicia remained until 5 June (JSL). A **Snowy Plover** at the Lincoln WTP on 15-16 June (RPz, DP) was one of few recorded in Placer County. The bird of the season was the first Central Valley and San Joaquin County record of an **Upland Sandpiper** from 25-28 June (LP, KZ). This bird was along Waverly Rd in suitable breeding habitat. It was seen flying and calling as if it were on territory, but alas, it could not be found on later dates. Another great shorebird was the adult **Little Stint** found at the Davis Wetlands 15-17 June (TEa). This Eurasian shorebird was also a first for the Central Valley and a first for Yolo County. An adult **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at the Lodi WTP in San Joaquin County on 3 July (DGY) and another was at the Jack Stone Ponds in Kings County on 16 July (MSy), which also hosted an adult **Sanderling** on 30 July (MSy). A molting adult **Stilt Sandpiper** was in Kings County, where they are nearly annual, on Nevada Ave ponds on 24 July (MSy) and a Ruddy Turnstone was there on 28 July (MSy, TKz). An adult **Western Gull** at the Davis WTP on 3 June (GEw) was unseasonal and far from its breeding range on the coast.

Short-eared Owls rarely breed in the region, and primarily during years with above average rainfall. Four individuals on Atwell Island in southwest Tulare County on 20 June (SAL) were probably breeding in the area. Clear Creek near Redding in Shasta County has a wonderful riparian habitat, which attracted an **Eastern Kingbird** on 8 June (GSt). A **Least Bell's Vireo** was found at a different location from last year's and this spring's site within the Yolo Bypass WA in late June (JTr, EWh). A breeding pair was documented at San Luis NWR when an occupied nest was found on 27 July (PJM). The only eastern warbler reported this season was a singing adult male **American Redstart** on Boggs Slough in Kings County on 25 June (MSy). A **Summer Tanager** was at Yosemite Lake Park in Merced County on 14 June (LPa), and a

second year male was in West Sacramento in Yolo County on 20 July (*fide* PH). A singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** was along Sand Creek Rd in sw Colusa County on 5 June (EWh) for one of few county records of this locally-distributed species. Another was on Waverly Rd on 6 July (FrO, TR+) in se San Joaquin County.

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Abbreviations used:

WA=State Wildlife Area; WTP=Wastewater Treatment Ponds; NWR=National Wildlife Refuge; Res.=Reservoir.