

Central Valley and Foothills Bird Highlights: June through July 2015

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A rare summer **Common Loon** graced the Camp Far West Res. section in Yuba County from 4-15 June (IG). Three singing **Black Rails** continued at the Cosumnes River Preserve all summer after being discovered on 3 June (CW). There are very few records for Sacramento County, although they have been known to occur at White Slough in nearby San Joaquin County for many years.

As we now come to expect, **Snowy Plovers** visited the Yolo Basin WA this summer with one present on 14 July (SCH). An adult **Pacific Golden-Plover** visited the Yolo Basin WA from 25-27 July (MPE+) and another was at the Gustine WTP in Merced County on 16 July (PD). A single **Solitary Sandpiper** treated birders at the Chico WTP in Butte County from 16-20 July (MF+). Rare north of Yolo County, **Willetts** were found at the Sacramento NWR in Glenn County with one on 27 June and two on 29 June (SMAcL), another at the Chico WTP in Butte County on 18 July (A&SE), and two at Folsom Lake in Placer County on 25 June (RP). Also rare in the north valley region, **Marbled Godwits** were along Marcum Rd, Sutter County with four on 7 July (JLa), at Sacramento NWR in Glenn County on 11 July (CaC), and below Black Butte Dam, Tehama County on 27 July (SL). Single **Ruffs** were at the Davis Wetlands in Yolo County on 29 June (ELOP+), the Cosumnes River Preserve in Sacramento County on 6 July (AK), and the Tulare Lake District North in Kings County on 11-19 July along with an adult **Little Stint**—the second county and fourth Central Valley record of the Eurasian rarity (both MSy). One **Ruddy Turnstone** was at the Tulare Basin, Kings County on 28 June (MSy). An adult **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the Chico WTP on 5 July (CHa) was one of few records for Butte County. A juvenile was at the Yolo Basin WA on 23 July where the species is seen every fall (TEa). Other scarce migrants there include an adult **Pectoral Sandpiper** and an early **Dunlin** on 18 July (BM, NR), and a **Baird's Sandpiper** on 23 July (TEa). Other **Baird's Sandpipers** were at the nearby Woodland WTP on 14 July (SA), and two at the Chico WTP in Butte County on 19-20 July (FO, JR). A **Sanderling** was at the Sacramento WTP on 21 July (CCo).

A first summer **Little Gull** was at the Kent Ave Ponds in Kings County on 22 June to 9 July (MSy+), a year after one was seen south of that location in the same county. **Franklin's Gull** records have increased dramatically in recent years in the region, probably due to the expanding breeding population in the Klamath Basin. However, two at the Modesto WTP on 12 June (JG) was a surprising late date for spring migrants, but one on 28 June at the Kent Ave

Pond in Kings County was a subadult (BB) and may have been an early fall migrant. A first cycle **Western Gull** was in Kings County on 7 June (MSy), an unusual summer record for the region and a very rare species for the county. The splashes of the summer were **Least Terns** with one at the Woodland WTP on 17 July (KB) for only the fourth county record, another at Chico WTP (MRg, MF) for about the third Butte County record, one at the Madera WTP on 17 July for only about the fourth Madera County record (GF), and a pair returning to the Bufferlands in Sacramento County on 11 July (CCo) where they have bred in several previous years.

The best find of the season was the **Common Ground-Dove** photographed at Elk Creek in Glenn County on 4 July (SMcL). This is a first county record and the farthest north in California. Rarely found in the region, especially during summer, a **Long-eared Owl** was spotted at West Pond in Davis, Yolo County on 24 July (GT). Always a rare find in the valley, an **Eastern Kingbird** just west of the San Joaquin River NWR on 14 July (GZ) was a first for Stanislaus County. Yolo County's fifth record of **Red-eyed Vireo** was a singing bird along Cache Creek only found 8 June (BC) despite searches the following day. The singing **Indigo Bunting** found in spring at the Spenceville WA in Nevada County was still present to at least 9 June (IG). Cosumnes River Preserve hosted a Summer Tanager through the summer (JTr). Once again, the Sacramento Bypass in Yolo County produced a vagrant warbler with a singing male **Northern Parula** on 29 June (SCH), and another was at the William B Pond area of the American River Parkway, Sacramento County on 25 June (CH).

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

ADDENDUM: The following sighting was inadvertently left out of the March-May 2015 report. A **Long-tailed Duck** was at the Ripon WTP in San Joaquin County on 13 March (SSa).