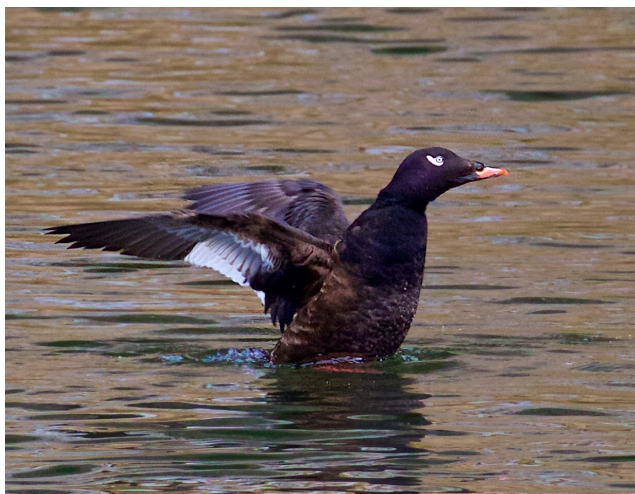


2018 Central Valley Photo Highlights

Compiled by Dan Brown and Frances Oliver

We had many great birds in the Central Valley in 2018. Here are photos of some of the rare bird highlights from the past year. Please, all Central Valley bird photographers, submit your photos of rarities encountered in 2019 for possible publication in 2019/2020. Please send photographs to photo editor Dan Brown at Naturestoc@aol.com.



A rare inland male White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) was discovered by Tim Fitzer at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, Sacramento, Co. on 13 December 2018 and seen by many observers throughout February 2019.

Photo © Ed Harper

A Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) nested with a White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) at the Woodland Water Storage Pond. It was first reported by Holly Coates and Emmett Iverson on 24 May 2018 and was seen by many other birders. The pair was reported still feeding young on 7 July and was present at least through 19 July.



Photo © John Ehrenfeld



A fourth county record Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) was discovered by Gary Woods on 29 November 2018 at the Madera WTP, Madera Co. It continued thru 8 December.

Photo © Gary Woods

This Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*), a first record for Colusa Co. was discovered in a flooded field among Long-billed Dowitchers on Lonestar Road on 23 January 2018 by William Rockey. The majority of the few winter records come from the Tulare Basin in the far southern area of the valley.



Photo © Michele Swarthout



A fourth county record American Golden-plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) was discovered by Gary Woods at the Fresno WTP, Fresno, Co. on 1 November 2018. It continued through 8 November.

Photo © Gary Woods



A Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) was observed on 7 September 2018 at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area by Dan Brown.

Photos © Daniel L. Brown

This Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*) was discovered by Steve Hampton on 31 August 2018 at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, Yolo Co. The only previous record is 2 September 2002 at the Davis Wetlands , and that bird stayed less than an hour!





A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) was discovered on a CV Bird Symposium field trip Jim Rowoth led at the Stockton Rural Cemetery on 11 November 2018. It continued thru 19 December.

Photo © Linda Pittman



A Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) was observed by Terry Colburn at the Sacramento NWR in Glenn Co. It delighted those who saw it but frustrated those who missed it over several weeks from 28 December 2017 until the 10 February 2018.

Photo © Daniel L. Brown



Multiple Cassin's Kingbirds (*Tyrannus vociferans*) were first discovered at Orestimba Rd—Delta Mendota Canal, Stanislaus Co. by Harold Reeve on 31 March 2018. Likely they bred at this location.

Photos © Jim Hoagland





The Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) first reported on eBird on 8 January 2018 in a yard in Woodland, Yolo Co., continued to be reported throughout February. This is an amazing bird for both the Central Valley and Northern California.

Photo © Susie Nishio

This Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) was discovered by Bill Oliver and Gail Dobber on the Red Bluff CBC at the Hog Lake area, Tehama Co. on 30 December 2017. It continued thru 19 January 2018. This was a second record for Tehama, with the third record discovered only a week later.

Photo © Michele Swarthout



A very rare Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) was found by Dave Fries on 1 December 2018 at the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, San Joaquin Co. A third county record that continued through the end of February, 2019.

Photo © Breck Breckenridge

An immature Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) was found on 25 December 2018 by Mike Skram along the railroad tracks by Dayton Rd., Chico, Butte Co. This is probably the third county record for Butte. Frequently the Central Valley hosts one or two wintering Harris's Sparrows.

Photos © John T. Lewis



A Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) came to Mac McCormick's yard in East California Park, Chico, Butte Co. on 26 May 2018. Unfortunately, it was a one day bird. Black-throated Sparrows were last reported in Butte Co. in the mid 70's.



A first fall male Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) was found at Basalt Campground, Merced Co. on 2 October 2018 by Gary Woods.

Photos © Gary Woods

Another first fall male Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) was discovered by Tom Dayton at Lost Lake Recreation Area, Fresno Co., on 2 December 2018. It was seen by a number of observers until the end of the year.





A Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) was discovered by Andrew Lee on 6 January 2018 and seen through 17 February at Reichmuth Park, Sacramento Co. This established the first documented county record and third for the Central Valley (and first for winter).
Photo © Daniel L. Brown



On 18 August 2018 Kirk Swenson discovered a molting male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) along Putah Creek. This tanager spent its time flying back and forth between both Yolo and Solano Co. through 20 September.

Photo © James Holmes