

## Central Valley and Foothills Bird Highlights: June through July 2019

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Rare and local in the Central Valley, a **Least Bittern** at Vivian and Fulkerth Road marsh was a new location in Stanislaus County (XS). The **Least Terns** returned to the Sacramento WTP on 1 June to breed for the tenth time in twelve years (CCo). A **Franklin's Gull** on 6 July (KSw, ZP) at the Yolo Basin W.A. was at an odd date—too late for a spring migrant and too early for a fall migrant.

**Snowy Plovers** visited the Davis WTP in Yolo County on 23 and 27 July (BC). A rare **Red Knot** was discovered at the Davis WTP on 21-22 July (MM, SHp+). **Willetts** are fairly rare north of the Tulare Lake Basin, so one at the Fresno WTP on 12 July (GW) and another at the Lincoln WTP in Placer County on 10 July (EP) were noteworthy. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at the Arbuckle WTP in Colusa County on 9 July (LS).

Two rare migrant **Purple Martins** were foraging over the Sacramento River near Los Molinos in Tehama County on 20 July (MSw). This species has been nearly eradicated from the Central Valley with the only known breeding areas currently in the Sacramento metropolitan area.

Bradford Island in eastern Contra Costa County had **Bell's Vireos** the previous summer, so one along with eighteen **Yellow-breasted Chats** on 1 June (EM) was encouraging for these species re-colonization efforts in the region.

Vagrant songbirds this summer include a **Northern Parula** at the San Joaquin River NWR in Stanislaus County on 2 June (SS, XS), another near Tracy in San Joaquin County on 30 June (DGY), and a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at the Tuolumne River Parkway in Stanislaus County on 19 June (GH).

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