

President's Message -- A report on the 1998 Central Valley Birding Symposium

Greetings!

As the Central Valley Bird Club enters into its second full year of life, what does the future hold for the organization and its members? Being an optimist, I look back at the successes of our latest Central Valley Birding Symposium, held in Stockton at the Stockton Radisson, to see what it brings to the table for the CVBC in 1999. The CVBS added more than 120 new members to the CVBC roster. Throw in Harold Reeve's membership report that renewals (a new experience in the short life of the club) appear to be coming in well, and it looks like the CVBC is going into 1999 with a strong and growing membership. The CVBS was also a financial success and brought, unofficially, about \$3000 into the CVBC coffers. Exhibiting membership growth and being financially solvent are probably the two most important aspects in the life of a fledgling organization, and the CVBC appears very healthy on both accounts. This means that the immediate goals of the club can be met, which ensures continued growth and legitimacy. Chief among these goals is a quality and timely *CVBC Bulletin* that continues to expand its horizons and establish itself as a reputable journal in the eyes of both birders and ornithologists. Editors Tim Manolis and Bruce Webb continue to do a masterful job with the *Bulletin*, and have exciting plans for the journal in 1999. The feature publication of any organization is always its marquee attraction, and the CVBC will continue to keep its *Bulletin* a high priority.

In 1999, the CVBC will look ever deeper into how to develop a viable, user-friendly database for bird records throughout the Central Valley. This ongoing project lies at the heart of what the club is all about. However, it is evident that financial resources and manpower will be limiting factors to the success of this project, factors that we feel optimistic about overcoming. And in an attempt to expand membership up and down the Central Valley, the CVBC will continue to have outings/programs throughout the region and will work to involve its members in bird projects of regional significance.

Before signing off, I need to give kudos where deserved. This past CVBS successfully catered to over 250 participants over a 4-day period. An evaluation form was made available, and about 40% of the participants responded. When asked to choose between poor, fair, good, and excellent, the overall average response to 8 categories was just shy of excellent! A grade point average like that only comes from a lot of hard work, usually by just a handful of people. First and foremost, we owe a debt of gratitude to Frances Oliver who handled all aspects of registration with grace and humor. I also applaud Mary James (vendors), Joanne Katanik (technical), Nancy Perata (registration/graphics), Cheri Pillsbury (public relations), Del Riberal (souvenirs/awards), John Trochet (field trips), Sue Yee (meals), and all the volunteers who helped with field trips and the symposium. We are indebted to Cindy T'Souvas and

the Stockton Visitors and Convention Bureau for their leadership and contributions. I would also like to acknowledge the following sponsors of the 98 CVBS: John Blades, DDS, M & T Staten Ranch, San Joaquin Audubon Society, Kern Audubon Society, Altacal Audubon Society, Douglas Martin, DDS, Victory Wykoff, Audubon California, Wandering Tattler, Herman & Helen's Marina, Oak Grove Docent Council, City of Stockton, Eagle Optics, Birder's World Magazine, Wild Bird Magazine, American Birding Association, Lewallen Cattle Company, City of Lodi, Duncan Press, LYC, Stockton Radisson, and Dana Gardner.

Two CVBC charter board members have stepped down this year; Marc Fenner (treasurer) and Bruce Webb (director). Thank you Marc and Bruce for your leadership and contributions to the board during the club's inception. Marc and Bruce are replaced by Jim Gain and Ted Beedy, respectively, whom we warmly welcome.

Again, I look forward to a great year of growth and accomplishment by the CVBC, but most of all I look forward to some great birding in the Central Valley with a lot of great people.

David Yee