

Lark Buntings in interior northern California, 1998-1999

John Luther (pers. comm.) brought the following to our attention concerning the article, "Lark Buntings in the interior valleys of northern California, 1998-1999" (*CVBC Bulletin* 2:33-38):

"The Lark Bunting listed for Glenn Co. on 9 Feb was probably the bird that we (John Sterling, Kristie Nelson, Steve Glover, Steve Rovell, and I) first saw on 2 Jan 1999. At least it is very close to the same spot. We did not record the mileage from Danley Road, but 3.2 miles west sounds about right. Also this is in Colusa County and not Glenn County.

"On 30 March 1999 Kent Van Vuren and I had a Lark Bunting . . . near the intersection of highways 41 and 33 in sw Kings Co."

Brian Williams (pers. comm.) noted that the Colusa County site is known as Swifts Stone Corral (shown as such on some maps) and the Glenn County sighting along Leesville Road was at the junction with King Road, approximately 8 miles W of Williams.

Thanks, John and Brian, for these valuable additions.

President's Message

Sitting down to write this message affords me the opportunity to truly reflect on the last days of this year/decade/century/millennium and look ahead to the future. I guess I've been avoiding this topic until now because of all the Y2K hoopla, but a time of reflection and evaluation is important in the life of every individual and organization, and using significant periods in time is often a good prompter.

The CVBC is just completing its second year of existence. That's not a lot of history to look back on; it's just a baby. However, the individuals who initiated its existence and those who have come on board since have had a long history of living, birding, and fighting for causes in the Central Valley and neighboring areas. One of the things I ponder as I reflect back and then look ahead, is where does the CVBC fit in, and does it have a place in my future.

My birding career started very early in life: I was but 12 years old. Birding fills my needs pretty much the same today, though I like to think I'm more sophisticated about it now. Like most birders, I have had to carefully choose what birding opportunities I can manage realistically over the course of a year. Likewise, I've had to choose what birding related "causes" I have the time and resources to support.

When prioritizing my birding opportunities, it's so much easier to be reactive. For instance, White-winged Tern at Elkhorn Slough and I'm there the following day. But what about a dreary day in January? Should I do a mid-winter waterfowl inventory at a local wetland even though my best sighting may be a collared Snow Goose? Truly, some of my finest birding experiences have been when no unusual birds were seen. Conversely, some of my rarest finds have come when least expected. This isn't as easy as doing the knee-jerk bird-chase, but often more rewarding. And when it comes to prioritizing what "causes" to embrace, I find myself following a similar process.

Currently the CVBC supports two entities that have any life: the *CVBC Bulletin* and the Central Valley Birding Symposium. I would venture to say that many small, pro-active, non-profits successfully live their entire existence by putting out a timely publication and having an annual meeting. Both entities have to be like the organization itself to be successful; they have to be pro-active and niche-creative. They also need to have the faithful support of members.

The *CVBC Bulletin*, in just eight issues, has been able create a small but well balanced journal that touches on the status, distribution, identification, finding and enjoyment of birds in the Central Valley. How can you help produce an ever-improving *Bulletin*, aside from your continued membership? Articles, notes, ANY contributions to the Bulletin are sorely needed, and you need not be a gifted writer to be a contributor. Just submit your article and our editors will work with you on it. Or if you know of anyone studying birds in the CV who would be ecstatic if the project were published, please encourage them to consider the *CVBC Bulletin*.

As I write this, the Third Central Valley Birding Symposium is less than 3 weeks away. It serves as both annual meeting and membership drive/fund raiser for the CVBC, as well as community outreach. It promises to be our best yet in terms of attendance. The CVBS is financed 100% by registration fees and solicited funding, an amazing feat for an event of its kind.

How can you help the CVBS beyond simply attending? First, you could volunteer to help. Because the event has grown every year, we continually need to find more volunteers just to keep pace. Second, we're just scratching the surface of what the CVBS could be. For instance, how about creating a special program for kids? Third, are you willing to host the CVBS in your town? Stockton doesn't have to be the permanent home of the event. Changing venues can help keep the event fresh and unique.

If the CVBC with its precocious little *Bulletin* and bigger-than-life CVBS keep me a little less predictable and a little more creative, then it's worth the effort. And as I look to the (dare I say it) new millennium, I'm going to stay committed to those things that keep me on the edge. I hope you, too, will choose to keep the CVBC vision alive.

David Yee