

Announcements

President's Message

At a recent editorial board meeting, as we were discussing some of the CVBC's accomplishments for 2000, I casually noted that we had promoted the conservation of birds in the Central Valley. A veteran board member responded to my comment by saying, "Well, we really don't do very much in the way of conservation." Somewhat surprised, I countered, "Sure we do" as I began to think out loud. "The annual symposium (which attracts hundreds of birders) has always featured speakers that are involved with conservation efforts, the club membership has participated in censuses and other studies of rare and declining species, and our quarterly publication, the CVBC Bulletin, has consistently featured articles on special-status birds." After a short debate, we all agreed, some more reluctantly than others, that the CVBC does promote the conservation of Central Valley birds, even if only indirectly. Although I was initially satisfied with this resolution, the more I thought about it, the more I began to think that maybe it was time for us to begin to develop a more focused approach to bird conservation in the Central Valley. As a first step in this direction, I would like to use this opportunity to introduce a few conservation-related developments that have been initiated recently by the CVBC.

Conservation usually begins with education. I remember seeing a local guide in Belize wearing a t-shirt that said, "We conserve what we love, we love what we understand, we understand what we are taught." I couldn't agree more with this concept.

In an effort to contribute to conservation through education, the CVBC is pleased to announce the establishment of the David Yee Scholarship Fund. This fund will provide an annual scholarship to a young club member. Both the selection criteria and award process, which are currently being developed by a subcommittee of the Board of Directors, will include elements directly related to bird conservation. Information on the David Yee Scholarship Fund will soon be posted at our website: <http://www.CVBirds.org>.

On another front, the CVBC recently initiated an effort to establish a link at our website devoted to special-status birds of the Central Valley. When completed, this link will provide a source of information on special-status birds including photographs, life history, and threats to the local populations.

Environmental education is perhaps most effective when it is presented as a "hands-on experience," that is, when we have an opportunity to learn about birds when observing them in the field. The CVBC is planning more field outings, beginning this spring, which will give members opportunities to visit some of the finest birding destinations in the Central Valley. We would like to thank the Altacal, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Yolo chapters for enthusiastically agreeing to co-sponsor trips in 2002. I encourage you to try to attend one or more of the field trips planned for this year. Check our website

for updates to the field trip schedule. The CVBC/Audubon trips will provide opportunities to meet birders and see birds outside of our normal birding circles. It will also help strengthen the already strong relationships that exist among Central Valley Audubon Society chapters and the CVBC.

Leo Edson

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

sketch by Tim Manolis



CVBC Outings

Sacramento River Field Trip – June 29 & 30 2002

The following is an agenda for what has proved an extremely popular club outing in recent years. If you haven't attended this summer outing in the past, you are in for a treat.

Saturday

8:00 am - Meet at Indian Fisheries Day Use Area (end of Sacramento Avenue at River Road west of Chico.)

9:00 am to 12:00 pm – Field Trip to Phelan Island

See and hear a variety of avian species while walking through forest along slough and river, and...