

Announcements

President's Message

In keeping with the CVBC's goal of uniting the birding community throughout the entire Central Valley, Bill Oliver of Wintu Audubon Society (Shasta County) and I organized a Winter Bird Festival in Redding from 31 January - 1 February 2004. I am pleased that more than 55 birders from 12 different counties, some from as far south as Fresno and San Benito counties, participated in the field trips and attended the programs. We also had perfect weather, except for the noon snow flurry during the Sunday Fall River Mills field trip (but we already had seen most of the good birds by then, including two Red-breasted Mergansers in Lassen County). I am also pleased with the number and quality of the Saturday afternoon presentations and I thank Bob Yutzy, Bruce Deuel, Bob Claypole, Ray Ekstrom, Steve Emmons, and Jim Lomax for their contributions. Jim's "Last Picture Show" was hopefully not really his last slideshow to our group. These talks were well-attended after a morning of field trips in the Redding area expertly led by local birders: Bill Oliver, Ray Bruun, Phil and Linda Aldritch, Rob Santry, Ken Able and Bob Yutzy. The "best" birds were the three Shasta County Red-breasted Mergansers, Barrow's Goldeneye and Thayer's Gull. And many of us saw lots of new birds for our Shasta County lists!

I am happy to announce that after many months of informal discussions, the Conservation Committee has arrived. Ed Pandolfino, Leo Edson, Waldo Holt, Frank Gray, and Chris Conard attended the first meeting on 5 May. The members of the committee bring forth a tremendous collective knowledge of the conservation issues that affect our region and will help guide our Club to be an effective participant in addressing and solving these issues. In the next CVBC Bulletin, there will be a report on the progress of this committee. Anyone who has an interest in participating should contact a committee member or a CVBC Board member.

A long-term goal that I have as President is to integrate the scientific and amateur ornithological and birding communities more closely into the CVBC. We have many talented individuals that can offer expertise as well as time to important scientific research projects in the Central Valley. Assisting existing projects as well as initiating projects can be an important mission of the CVBC and one that can help to inform the conservation mission and increase the organization's profile in the ornithological community. It can also be an exciting opportunity for birders without formal ornithological training to get involved and learn from interesting and focused birding projects. There are many organizations that we can link with including the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, California Partners-in-Flight and Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

John Sterling