

Jim Laughlin (JLa), Cathy LaZier, John S. Luther (JSL), Ann Pellegrini, Mary Schiedt (MSc), Stefan Schlick (SSk), Jim Snowden (JSn), Mark Stacy, John Sterling (JCS), John Trochet (JTr), Dan Williams, Stan Wright, and Gary Woods.

## **Announcements**

---

### **President's Message**

**Conservation Activities** — The Central Valley Bird Club has had an exciting year, especially in joining several Central Valley bird and habitat conservation causes. The Board of Directors has been active in endorsing several advocacy positions including the “Save Our State Parks” campaign that lobbied to fight deep budget cuts in the state park system, and the rice as wildlife habitat education campaign. This latter campaign (see back cover of this issue) promotes public awareness of the critical role water plays in maintaining habitat for waterfowl and other aquatic birds when used in rice fields and recycled for use in public wildlife refuges. The CVBC also became a member of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition ([www.carangeland.org/index.html](http://www.carangeland.org/index.html)) and continues to serve as the regional representative in the International Bird Conservation Alliance ([www.birdconservationalliance.org/](http://www.birdconservationalliance.org/)).

Most exciting is the CVBC's first venture into an organized research project. Headed by Zach Smith and Ed Pandolfino, the Winter Raptor Survey is in full force this year with several key volunteers helping with the surveys. Zach and Ed did an outstanding job in obtaining many grants from local Audubon chapters as well as from the California Rice Commission that will pay for Zach's time in managing the project and for the volunteers' car mileage expenses. I look forward to seeing the results from this winter and next. This project will be a very important piece in the California Rangeland Coalition's advocacy for preserving large expanses of open space for raptor habitat, including the grasslands that encircle the Central Valley in the lower foothills.

Because the CVBC mission includes conservation, the Board agreed to create a policy regarding conservation messages on the Central Valley Birding listserve. In the past, only messages about birds and birding were allowed in order to keep the listserve from devolving into a free form discussion of conservation policy and politics. But the Board feels that one of the duties of the club is to inform members of conservation issues and that the CVBC needed to strike an acceptable balance for allowing a few informative messages on the birding-oriented Listserve. So the following policy was agreed upon by the Board: “by general agreement, the policy was established that announcements regarding conservation issues related to the Central Valley would be acceptable for posting when submitted only by

Board members to the Listserve. Such postings are not intended to advocate positions—they should be to inform only. Further discussion on the Listserve is not acceptable.” If you know of an important, relevant bird conservation message that you’d like to share with the club’s membership, contact me at [jjsterling@wavecable.com](mailto:jjsterling@wavecable.com) and, please, do not try to send the message to the Listserve yourself.

As CVBC President, I encourage members to send me comments and suggestions on what we are doing and what you’d like the organization to do in the future. Of course, we could always use volunteers to help out as the CVBC is completely dependent upon volunteer help from the Board of Directors, Editorial Staff and Board, and committee members.

**Service Awards** — During the Symposium last November, the CVBC honored two of its most valuable volunteers by presenting Bruce Webb and Frances Oliver with our Service Award.

**Bruce Webb** is one of the founders of the Central Valley Bird Club. Although not a native of the Central Valley, Bruce has spent most of his adult life in the region, beginning in the 1970s as part of a very active birding scene in Butte County. He co-authored the first annotated Checklist of the Birds of Butte County in 1977. He was in Colorado for a while in the late 1970s, where he was actively involved in Colorado Field Ornithologists and obtained a Master of Arts degree from the University of Colorado, studying the distribution and nesting requirements of montane forest owls. Those who know Bruce are well aware of his love for owls and his mastery of the skills of finding them. After his stint in Colorado, he returned to California and eventually settled in Granite Bay, where he has become a major force in the Placer County birding community.

Since the inception of the Central Valley Bird Club, Bruce has been actively involved in just about all of the club’s activities. As assistant editor for the Bulletin, his many abilities have been indispensable. He has also been actively involved with the Central Valley Birding Symposium as a trip and workshop leader, has been involved in the club’s web site design, and has served as moderator for the Central Valley Birding listserve. Few club members have Bruce’s diversity of talents and generous nature, with which he has supported our efforts, and for which the Central Valley Bird Club is extremely fortunate and appreciative.

During the very first Central Valley Birding Symposium in 1997 the registration team needed someone to step up and be a “super volunteer.” That someone turned out to be **Frances Oliver**. She joined the CVBS steering committee the following year and set a standard for handling registration that is the envy of other event organizers who work with volunteers. She brings the best out in those that work with her, and when things become chaotic, she becomes a soothing voice of reason. When one arrives at the CVBS her cheerful greeting sets the tone for the entire event. She then becomes “den mother” to the hundreds of birders that attend each year.

In addition to her invaluable role as the linchpin of the CVBS, Frances has also served as Membership Secretary since 2001 and on the Board of Directors since 2006. In total, her efforts have contributed to the success of the CVBS and the CVBC in more ways than can be described. To have Frances so involved in our organization from its inception has truly been most fortunate for all of us, and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude.

*John Sterling*

## **2008 Report from the Editorial Board**

With completion of the Central Valley Bird Club Bulletin's 11th volume, we offer news of the bulletin, and solicit your suggestions and help.

We have a diverse, effective, and fun group of volunteers (see names on the inside cover) who work hard to get interesting and valuable information into both your hands and the long-term record. We thank outgoing Editorial Board member Sid England for his good work and welcome an impressive crop of new board members: Shelly Kirn, Jim Rowoth, Jon Dunn, and John Trochet.

The Bulletin exists to serve you. We try to provide a diverse array of articles on the distribution, status, ecology, and conservation of the Central Valley's bird life. In 2006, we conducted a membership survey and found that most members were satisfied with the Bulletin's contents, and we continue to hear compliments about the publication. But we are always open to feedback, so feel free to contact any of us with your ideas.

More importantly, we encourage members to submit and solicit articles that we can publish. Our Editorial Board members are committed to assisting authors in putting their observations in a form suitable for the Bulletin. If you know of someone with information that would fit into the Bulletin, suggest it as an outlet and have them contact us.

We are proceeding in an effort to electronically scan back articles of the Bulletin and make them available on the internet. This will make our information much more available, and thus more valuable for all potential uses. New webmaster John Sterling has begun loading Bulletin articles from issues prior to 2007. Check it out.

Finally, help us broaden the value of the Bulletin by increasing its circulation through recruiting new members for the Central Valley Bird Club. Most of our members come via attendance at the annual Central Valley Bird Symposium and through renewals. If you know non-members who are candidates for membership, encourage them to join by visiting our web site or by contacting Frances Oliver (see inside cover). We particularly want to encourage membership among students and those involved in bird conservation and management. Thanks for your support of the Bulletin!

*Dan Airola*