

President's Message

The past year was very active and as we enter 2014, things aren't slowing down. In November, the club held another excellent Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, and the symposium committee is already organizing the next one. Plan to join us for the club's signature event, our 18th annual, November 20-23, 2014. It is hard to believe I'm already going into my second year as club President. John Sterling stepped down after nine years, but remains on the board as Vice President, and will continue his focus on the youth scholarship and on expanding our young birder program. It is an honor to work with him and the rest of our excellent board, including our new members, Patricia Bacchetti and Cliff Hawley, who have already made important contributions to the club's field trips and membership outreach.

Since the founding editor Tim Manolis stepped down after the completion of Volume 14, the Bulletin has continued at a very high level. With this offering, Dan Airola has completed the sixth issue since taking over as editor. Dan has the support of a great team, including Dan Brown as photo editor, and Frances Oliver, who has taken on the Bulletin's layout among her many contributions to the club. Members of the editorial board provide support to the Bulletin through writing, reviewing and soliciting articles. They need the support of the membership. The Bulletin staff is ready to work with first-time authors, so please contact us with topics you are interested in exploring.

Through the generous contributions of club members and sponsors, five young birders received scholarships to attend birding camps in 2013, and Sacramento Audubon Society provided grants to help recipients with transportation. We are currently seeking applications for 2014 (cvbirds.org/Scholarship.htm), with a deadline of February 15. We also stepped up our field trip schedule, with nine trips since the 2012 Symposium. Matching that pace in 2014 may be difficult, but our gull identification field trip announced for February first filled in eight hours. An April Sutter Buttes trip will be announced to club members via e-mail and other trips are in the works. Please contact me if you have additional field trip ideas.

Other highlights from the past year include the club's publication of the updated *Annotated Bird List for Butte County, California* by Jim Snowden, which is available from the CVBC for \$3. Bruce Deuel received the 2013 Club Service Award for his longtime work on the board, the Bulletin, field trips, and his many contributions to birds and the birding community through a career as a wildlife biologist, primarily focused on Central Valley habitats, and for serving as county editor for *North American Birds* and as an eBird reviewer for most of the northern Central Valley (Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, Sutter,

and Yuba Counties!). Ed Harper and John Sterling received Club Service Awards at the 2012 symposium for their many contributions to the club and the birding community.

We need to maintain the quality of our existing projects while looking for new opportunities to promote our unique focus on the birds of the Central Valley. One continuing challenge is to keep our organization strong throughout the Valley by reaching out to members, potential members, and organizations in the northern and southern ends of the Valley, as well as in between. The club looks to support projects benefiting bird conservation through the Waldo Holt Bird Conservation Endowment, and we are a member organization with the Bird Conservation Alliance, the Tricolored Blackbird Working Group, the California Rangeland Coalition, and the Rice and Wildlife Education Program.

Stay on top of club activities and bird and birding news in the region through the CV Birds listserve (cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm) and the CVBC's Facebook page. We are always looking for contributions and ideas from the membership, so please consider contributing to the Bulletin, suggesting a field trip idea and helping to organize one, or contacting me with your ideas, suggestions, and questions.

Chris Conard
CVBC President