

Editor's Note

This Bulletin issue focuses on several people who contributed to our understanding of the historical conditions of the Central Valley's avifauna, and the records they left behind: Tracy Storer and Betty Kimball. We generally focus the attention of the Bulletin on birds, rather than people. This issue is an exception that we think is warranted because of the important legacy of information they were instrumental in recording about past conditions in the Central Valley and the bird life that occurred then.

As the papers show, they came from different eras and positions in life. Storer was academic while Betty was an avid birder and early citizen scientist. In their own ways, though, each left a rich legacy of information that helps us to understand how the birdlife we experience today compares to what occurred in the past. Although, as investment advisors say, "past results do not predict future outcomes", an understanding of the long-term changes in habitat conditions and the associated avifauna gives us a valuable basis to assess potential effects of future changes in land uses and climate, as well as introduction of alien species.

We hope you enjoy the exploration of the past in this issue. We hope it inspires some of you to look more closely at the historical information sources we describe to answer other questions about the long term changes in bird populations in the Central Valley. Most importantly, we hope it inspires our readers to keep good records of what they see today, through eBird and other sources, to serve as a baseline for future research and conservation efforts.

Because of the special theme of this issue, the Seasonal Highlights article for March-May 2013 will appear along with the June-July article in the next issue.

Last, a quick thanks to Editorial Board member Dan Kopp, who has adapted his sharp eyes for birds to finding errors while proofreading the last year's issues of the CVBC Bulletin.

Dan Airola