

## President's Message

As this issue of the CVBC Bulletin goes to press, the CVBC was being honored at the Stockton/San Joaquin Visitors and Convention Bureau's annual meeting for the club's involvement in bringing tourism to the local community. The CVBC was a recipient of awards by the Bureau, the State Assembly, the State Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives. In particular, the CVBC was being honored for organizing the annual symposium held in Stockton, and I was proud to receive the honor on behalf of the CVBC membership, the board of directors, and the 1997-8 symposium committees.

When I think back on the CVBC's first year of existence, and what it has accomplished, I probably would be very satisfied just knowing we put together two very successful symposia. But it doesn't just stop there: editors Tim Manolis and Bruce Webb produced a very attractive and timely *CVBC Bulletin*; the board of directors and a core of active members met MONTHLY at various spots up and down the Central Valley to establish an identity for the CVBC and set goals; we held three outings at strategic points in the Central Valley that allowed for great birding and interesting programs, and helped the CVBC grow to by 25% to 200 members. Very impressive!

I'd like to comment on our 25% growth the past year. Statistics reveal that non-profit organizations have about a 25% annual turn-over rate. That means that our 25% growth this past year will be off-set by 25% of you not renewing your membership in the CVBC. Dare I hope that we can buck the odds? As the CVBC enters its second year of existence, we will be taking a strong look at how we can continue to establish a network of communication for birders in the Central Valley, in order that the records, studies, and activities we all so faithfully keep and perform hope can be more properly stored and accessed. We can't do it without your continued help and support.

Thanks for one exciting year in the life of the CVBC, and I look forward to many more!

*David Yee*