

Tremont Road, which is directly opposite the entrance to the regional park, leads to the **Tremont Church and Cemetery**, 0.5 mile, on the left. Barn Owls sometimes roost in the dense cypress trees in the cemetery. Horned Larks are in the adjoining fields in winter.

Yellow-billed Magpie is one of the few true endemic birds in California, and the Central Valley is their stronghold. In driving the rural roads of Yolo County you are virtually certain to encounter them. In particular, look along Road 98 both north and south of Road 31 for a mile or two. While traveling the roads, watch for swallows in spring and summer, especially Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliffswallows.

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Announcements

President's Message

As you can tell, the Central Valley Bird Club has again upgraded the image of the Bulletin. What does this mean? It means that for the fourth consecutive year I can start off by saying that the CVBC grew in membership during the past year, conducted another very successful Central Valley Birding Symposium (CVBS), and took another step towards becoming a legitimate voice for bird education and bird conservation in the Central Valley. Plans and goals for the CVBC in the upcoming year look bright indeed. Given that the organization is entering only its fourth full year of existence, we have truly come a long way. But when I look at those that put time and energy into the CVBC, and watch with amazement those that organize and run the Symposium, I shouldn't be surprised at the results. I applaud all of you who have so generously given of yourselves to ensure the continued success of the CVBC and the CVBS.

Presently, the heart and soul of the Club are its annual Symposium and quarterly Bulletin. I would like to comment on both. It's no secret that much of the growth of the Club, both membership-wise and financially, has been directly related to the success of the CVBS. Our fourth annual CVBS this past November in Stockton was again a tremendous success. For the fourth consecutive year we grew in attendance and had nearly 380 participants, including fieldtrip leaders, speakers, vendors, and volunteers. Nearly one third of the registered participants were new to the CVBC/CVBS and became new members of the Club in the process. The CVBS brought over 100 new members into the Club and over \$8000 in net proceeds! Very exciting for me personally were the nearly 25 local grammar/high school students that attended with their teachers. We hope this is but the beginning of a rewarding relationship between local schools and the event. Keynote speakers Ed Harper, Kevin Karlson, and Kenn Kaufman

masterfully captivated us with their evening programs. For the first time we had “perfect” weather, which guaranteed highlights on every fieldtrip. Our species total was most impressive and included such rarities as Pectoral and Stilt sandpipers, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Shrike and many late-moving fall migrants. The numerous workshops received high praises on our evaluation forms, but how could we miss when they’re conducted by the likes of Michael Bradbury, Jon Dunn, Steve Hampton, Keith Hansen, Kimball Garrett, Joe Morlan, and Debi Shearwater, to name but a few. Perhaps the highest praises for the event came from the speakers and those that organize other birding events. Most were unanimous in declaring that the CVBS is one of the premier birding events in the West!

Special recognition goes to those on the CVBS steering committee who put countless hours into making the event a success: Joanne Katanic (venue/equipment), Frances Oliver (registration), Cheri Pillsbury (publicity), John Trochet (field trips), and Sue Yee (meals). The CVBS also benefits from a generous group of sponsors: Stanislaus Audubon, Dr. John Blades, San Joaquin Audubon, Sacramento Audubon, Wandering Tattler, Victor Wykoff, Audubon California, Noah’s Bagels, Herman & Helen’s Marina, Yolo Audubon, Duncan Press, and the Stockton Radisson. John Schmitt’s beautiful waterfowl image graced our posters and T-shirts. Plans are already well underway for the fifth CVBS this November, again at the Stockton Radisson. We remain very committed to ensuring the success of the event.

The successes of the last two Symposia have given us both a healthy membership and budget to work from, so we felt it was time to upgrade the Bulletin to the “next level.” One of the primary goals of the Club for 2001 is to bolster its membership indirectly from the CVBS. The CVBC Directors feel the first way to accomplish this is through the Bulletin. Editor Tim Manolis has always had high expectations as to what the Bulletin can accomplish for birds and birders in the Central Valley. We want them to be realized and a color cover is the first step. But, we now need your help to keep moving forward. We desperately need more articles, notes, and other materials for the Bulletin, and our best resource is our members. If you have any, or know of someone who has interesting bird records, behavioral studies, or status/distributional comments on birds in the CV, please get in contact with Tim. What Tim would most like to see are reports of ongoing studies (e.g., Christmas Bird Counts) wherein contributors to these studies can see the fruits of their labor published.

With the emphasis on membership-maintenance this year, a new Membership Care Committee has also been formed: Leo Edson (chair), Frances Oliver, Harold Reeve, and myself. The goal of the Committee is to upgrade the membership database, to make sure members don’t “fall through the cracks”, and to keep in touch with lapsing and past members. If you have any questions regarding your membership, especially as it relates to receiving the Bulletin, please be in touch with Frances Oliver, 1817 Songbird Place, Lodi, CA 95240 (e-mail: hummer52@lodinet.com).

David Yee