

## President's Message

As I prepare to step down as president of the Central Valley Bird Club, I do so with a great sense of joy and accomplishment. The CVBC has come such a long way since its inception in the summer of 1997. Our initial goals included fostering the collection and dissemination of information about, and promoting interest in, the birdlife of the Central Valley. I also hoped that the CVBC would establish a strong membership base, be financially solvent, and unite birders throughout the region. As I reflect on four full years of a rapidly improving journal, four very successful symposia, a well established listserv, a growing and involved membership that presently stands at about 400, a healthy budget, and cash reserves in the bank, I can truly say that we have met and even exceeded our initial goals. I remember at the time these goals appeared rather lofty, as the failure rate of start-up non-profits is extremely high. But with many dedicated, hard-working members, the CVBC couldn't help but survive and succeed. I remember, too, that one of the big concerns at the time was the potential conflict of interest between the club and already well-established birding/conservation organizations, such as local Audubon chapters. Such concerns were almost immediately dispelled as the sense of cooperation that is now one of the hallmarks of conservation efforts around the nation took hold, and the club helped birders and organizations up and down the Central Valley draw one step closer to birding and working together.

Of course, stepping down is made so much easier when followed by such a strong successor. Utilizing the President-elect title to its fullest, Leo Edson has worked very closely with me in all aspects of the club this past year. Leo brings such strengths and passions to the position, I can't wait for him to be in office and serve with him. I am also very confident and proud of the other officers, board members, and active members-at-large that oversee the CVBC, and know full well that our club is in good hands. The future of the CVBC looks very bright indeed.

Thanks so much to all of you for making the past four years some of my most rewarding as a birder in the Central Valley.

With kindest regards,

*David Yee*