

## President's Message

The CVBC is pleased to announce that we are heading south in 2003. With the addition of John Fulton and Bev Brock, the CVBC Board of Directors will have members from areas south of Stanislaus County for the first time since our inception in 1998. I believe that this step, in addition to a unanimous feeling among the continuing board members that the time is ripe for us to focus on areas outside of the Sacramento/Stockton region, will be a catalyst for northern CVBC members to become better acquainted with members and the birdlife of the southern part of our range.

Bev and John have been dedicated to birding and conservation in the Central Valley for many years. Bev, who currently resides outside of Sanger, is a past president of the Fresno Audubon Society, where she has served as a board member since 1993. Bev is currently the membership chair for the Fresno Audubon Society. John has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex since 1993 and has been birding and working to preserve wildlife and wildlife habitat for over 25 years. He is on the steering committee for the Wild On Wetlands Weekend in Los Banos and has been a repeat field trip leader at the Central Valley Birding Symposium.

In addition to expanding the geographic distribution of its board, the bird club intends to organize at least two weekend trips to the San Joaquin Valley in 2003. If you've not yet participated on a CVBC outing, please consider doing so next year. We we're extremely pleased with the turnout and results of our most recent trips to Butte County and Yolo County and would like to thank Joe Silveira and Joan Humprey, respectively, for their hard work that helped to make those trips two of our best yet. Like those trips, I anticipate that the San Joaquin Valley trips will include presentations by some of the top birders, biologists, and conservationists in the region. Information on 2003 CVBC field trips will soon be posted at our website: <http://www.CVBirds.org>.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of two board members who are stepping down this year, Waldo Holt and Kevin Hunting. During his tenure, Kevin has been a regular contributor to the CVBC Bulletin and has participated in several bird conservation projects for the club and the Department of Fish and Game. Waldo is charter board member and has been our Secretary from the start. In addition to keeping the board meetings and meeting notes entertaining with his dry sense of humor, I would like to thank Waldo for helping to make the CVBC an organization that its members can be proud to be associated with.

*Leo Edson*