

Report on the 6th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

The 6th annual CVBS held at the Stockton Radisson Nov 21-24, 2002 officially tallied 401 participants, an all-time high for the event. Increased attendance doesn't always signify success, but in this particular case it did, as the CVBS lived up to its reputation as one of the finest birding events held in the West. Enthusiastic reviews came not just from the participants, but from the speakers as well.

The CVBS is a membership driven event, and one of its main goals is to establish and maintain a sense of camaraderie and belonging that comes from sincere hearts on the part of the event's organizers and leadership of the Central Valley Bird Club. If you participated in the event this past fall and came away with these feelings, then one of our main goals were accomplished. If you also saw lots of great birds (thanks to our terrific field trip leaders and almost perfect weather), and learned something new about gulls (Jon Dunn), warblers (Kimball Garrett), birds in the hand (Andy Engilis), bird sketching (Keith Hansen), bird photography (David Rosen), birding software (John Robinson), landscaping for birds (Steve Stocking), basic bird ID (Jim Gain), the California Condor (Kelly Sorenson) or bird migration (Kevin Karlson), then you came away with a special gift. If the moving and superb photographs of Ed Harper, Shawneen Finnegan or Kevin Karlson rekindled your love for birds and their haunts, then we came away with a special gift. For we realize the desire to conserve birds and their habitats comes from an appreciation within. Thank-you for making the CVBS a success, and making the dreams of the CVBS steering committee come true.

I personally would like to extend my heart-felt thanks and applause to those on the steering committee, whose tireless efforts are seldom fully appreciated: Joanne Katanic (venue/equipment), Kurt Mize (field trips), Frances Oliver (registration), Cheri Pillsbury (publicity), and Sue Yee (meals/decorations). Many thanks also to the numerous volunteers whose names usually go unnoticed, but whose sacrifices are widely felt and appreciated.

To our many sponsors, your generosity both in service and financially are

a vital cog in the continued success of the both the CVBS and the CVBC; we're deeply indebted to you. We especially want to acknowledge those that gave in excess of \$250: Dr. John Blades, Audubon California, Sacramento Audubon, San Joaquin Audubon, Stanislaus Audubon, and Yolo Audubon. Our other wonderful sponsors included Altacal Audubon, Brunton Optics, Gluskin's, Noah's Bagels, Wandering Tattler, the City of Lodi, the City of Stockton, and the Lewallen Cattle Company. As is now traditional, all of the vendors and artists donated valuable items to the annual raffle, which raised almost \$600 for the CVBC. We must again praise Kowa Optimed for its generous donation of a spotting scope that was silently auctioned off for \$750 and contributes directly towards the CVBC Scholarship Fund. Finally we must thank Dana Gardner for his wonderful donation of the artwork that graced the CVBS shirts and posters, as well as the Stockton Radisson for continuing to provide an exception venue.

I would like to remind all participants at this past CVBS that your registration established or renewed your membership into the Central Valley Bird Club. The CVBS serves as the Club's annual meeting, primary membership drive, and principle fund-raiser. A minimum of \$12 per participant is transferred from the 2002 CVBS account directly into the CVBC account for the purposes of financing the following year's (2003) budget, most of which services the flagship of the Club, the Bulletin. Your participation in the CVBS directly helps to maintain the quality and integrity of a journal dedicated to the birds in the Central Valley. Please mark your calendar for the upcoming CVBS at the Stockton Radisson, Nov. 20-23, 2003. Hope to see you there!

David Yee