

President's Letter

Dear CVBC members,

As a new decade starts, I encourage everyone to renew your membership to the Central Valley Bird Club. (Those who attended the 2019 Symposium have their 2020 membership covered.) Your membership supports the only group that encourages the study, conservation, and enjoyment of birds of the Central Valley. As climate change accelerates, our mission to document the region's avifauna becomes even more critical (see, for example, Steve Hampton's article in this issue). As a Bird Club member, you receive the quarterly *Central Valley Birds* journal, have opportunities to participate in specialized field trips, help send enthusiastic and talented young birders to camps all over the country, and receive Cornell Lab's *Birds of North America* subscription at a club discount. You can sign up this invaluable on-line resource at: <https://birdsna.org/SpeciesAccount/bna/support/subscribe>.

As a 100% volunteer organization, all of your donations go directly to scholarships, publications, and conservation - there is no overhead. You can make renew your membership on-line at <http://www.cvbirds.org/> using the secure PayPal link, or send a check to Frances Oliver, 1817 Songbird Place, Lodi, CA 95240. Another way to support the club is to link your Amazon Prime account to the CVBC on Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com/>. A small percentage of your purchases will be donated to the club by Amazon.

The club was active last year on many fronts. First, the 23rd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium took place on a nice weekend in November, with a near-record 320 people attending. The excellent program kept everyone informed and entertained, and the field trips were full. Next year's symposium is scheduled for November 19-22. We'll look forward to seeing you then.

Due to your generosity, the Club was able to send seven young birders to camp last summer. We continue to get applications from enthusiastic and talented kids from all over Northern California. As Fiona Gillogly reported at this year's symposium, their experiences are both educationally and socially enriching. They are building ties with like-minded friends all over the country through social media. Their shared energy and innovative thinking are going to be needed as bird populations continue to be stressed. The 2019 scholarship winners were:

- Max Benningfield, Mark Schulis, and Joseph Zeno: *Camp Chiracahua*
- Fiona Gillogly: *Camp Cascades*
- Sierra Glassman Joachim Gonzalez, Dalia Gonzalez (Lockhart Scholarship recipient): *Camp Colorado*
- Ronan Nicholson: *Camp Avocet* (Ronan was also the ABA Young Birder of the Year in the 10-13 year-old category).

Board member Dan Airola continues to lead the Club's conservation efforts. The Club is supporting Dan's efforts to preserve the last Central Valley Purple Martin breeding population in Sacramento. The biennial Tricolored Blackbird Breeding Survey will take place again this year, and the Club encourages members to participate in the monitoring of this Threatened species. The Club will continue to look for opportunities to support conservation efforts in all parts of the Central Valley, particularly on the local level. If you have a local bird conservation issue that needs support, we encourage you to bring to the Board's attention.

You can keep up with the Club at www.cvbirds.org. Upcoming field trips will be announced on <https://groups.io/g/centralvalleybirds/>. Do you have a field trip suggestion or access to a good area that is typically closed to birders? Contact us and let us know-we are always looking for new trip opportunities.

If you have an interesting ideas for on an article for *Central Valley Birds* contact Editor Dan Airola or one of our Editorial Board members. And don't forget that past issues of the CVBC Bulletin (through 2018) have been archived on the website.

Wishing you a wonderful 2020, and best birding.

Patricia Bacchetti

Costa's Hummingbird
(*Calypte costae*). 12
February 2019. Davis,
Yolo Co., California.

Photo © Kirk Swenson

