



Illinois Ornithological Society

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Letter from the Editor

Birders' Exchange Needs Your Help

We're lucky. Many of us can afford Zeiss, Bausch & Lomb, and other high-quality binoculars, as well as Kowa and other scopes, and, of course, oodles of field guides to use to enjoy our favorite past-time. But in countries throughout the Western Hemisphere, biologists and park rangers are striving hard to use their limited financial resources to conduct top-notch science and to protect birds and their habitats. Many must pay for their own equipment.

Birders' Exchange works to remedy this situation by collecting new and used binoculars, spotting scopes, camera equipment, field guides, and ornithology texts to distribute to Latin American and Caribbean conservation groups, schools, universities, and government agencies. The Exchange has helped more than 100 groups in 26 countries.

Share your wealth and honor your ability to live and work in the world's most affluent country by contributing to the Exchange. The group, administered by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and the American Birding Association, will accept donations of new and used items. Please make sure all equipment is in good working order. All contributions are tax-deductible. Here's what the Exchange needs:

- * Binoculars
- * Spotting scopes
- * Tripods
- * Camera equipment
- * Tape recorders
- * Field guides to Neotropical and North American birds
- * Backpacks
- * Ornithology texts

For more information or to make a financial donation, contact Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, 81 Stage Point Road, PO Box 1770, Manomet MA 02345. Phone: (508) 224-6521.

Note: Birders living west of the Mississippi River should contact the American Birding Association, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934. Or Email: bpeterson@manomet.org

Do something that will make you feel good – and will help those less fortunate study the birds we love to watch.

Sheryl De Vore

