

Letter from the Editor

When I read Michael Hogg's president's message, I felt quite honored and, in fact, overwhelmed, and a bit embarrassed. The truth is, as editor for 15 years, I've always thought that Meadowlark was a collaborative effort among the board members, authors, artists, researchers, photographers, design editors, field notes compilers, Christmas Bird Count and Spring Bird Count compilers, newsletter editors and so many others.

And in fact, whenever I worry, oh no, what are we going to put into this next issue, someone always comes through at the final hour – volunteers like Steve Bailey, Paul Clyne, Geoff Williamson and Jeff Walk for articles and volunteers like Bob Hughes, Travis A. Mahan, Mary Kay Rubey, Eric Walters, Jerry Kumery, Emil Martinec – and so many more – with their fine digital photos. Please, forgive me, I've left out many names here and hope no one feels slighted.

And IBET, the state's birding list serve! What a wonderful resource for the editor of a state ornithological journal to see what rare birds and photos are out there, and give me ideas on what we can publish in Meadowlark. Most recently, we put out an appeal to IBET for those who photographed Snowy Owls last winter season to send them to me. I received wonderful photos, which I promise will be published in a future issue – likely Vol 16 No. 2 with an article revealing some unique observations about this species' irruption cycle.

In this issue, Bob Fisher, worked his last-minute magic by writing a new column on yard birding, which we hope will bridge the gap between beginning and advanced birders – something we at IOS are trying to do. Please do read it because it's got something for everyone – the backyard bird watcher, the scientist, the data gatherer. And show it to some of your friends who are just beginning to experience the joys of watching birds. They may wish to contribute, hey, even join IOS!

This issue, No. 60, is a milestone for many reasons. One, however, quickly comes to mind – and that is we are no longer a fledgling organization. We are an active, thriving group of birders who care about birds, bird identification, conservation, science and each other. So members, give yourselves a huge pat on your backs – and thank you for your support all these years. It means more than I can say.

Sheryl DeVore

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Note: The Index to Meadowlark Volume 15 will be published as an addendum or in a future issue.

About Our Cover:

Cover drawing of MacGillivray's Warbler was produced by Michael L. P. Retter. Michael is an Illinois native who leads tours in Mexico, Ecuador, and the U.S. for Birding America and Tropical Birding.

You may learn more about his artwork and tours at <http://retter.xenospiza.com/>.

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