

Letter from the Editor

Young Birder wins contest, has his own show...

Like most youngsters, Nandu Dubey, a 12-year-old from Grayslake, admires famous athletes, singers and actors. But his No. 1 hero is Roger Tory Peterson, the artist and naturalist who brought birding to the people.

Dubey, who has been drawing birds since he was 4 years old, is a featured artist at Volo Bog State Natural Area in Ingleside, Illinois; where more than 70 of his color drawings are being displayed through June 30. A reception is being held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on June 13.

Nandu is one of many young birders in the state who are revealing their passion for this hobby in many ways. Now they have a club to join to share their love of birds, thanks to Brian Herriott and the Illinois Ornithological Society.

"Nandu enjoys being outdoors and especially pays attention to the birds," said his mother, Anima Dubey. He began drawing when his kindergarten teacher had her students draw and write in a journal. Nandu often drew birds along with his family members.

To encourage his love of birds and art, Anima bought him colored pencils to augment his crayon drawings with finer details.

Nandu began identifying birds by sight when he was still in kindergarten. The sharp eyes of a 6-year-old were able to recognize a little duck as not being the familiar mallard.

"The family had to go shopping for a bird book, a Peterson Field Guide, and we discovered the little duck to be a pied-billed grebe," said Anima. "It was the Peterson's Field Guide that hooked Nandu on identifying and drawing birds."

Her son now owns about 25 bird books plus several bird song CDs. These resources help him with his drawings, but he also spends dozens of hours each month watching birds in the nearby wilds.

"My favorite birding places are Volo Bog and Rollins Savanna," Nandu said. Rollins Savanna, a Lake County Forest Preserve, is in walking distance from his home. One of the birds in the grasslands there is the eastern meadowlark, which is the subject of one of his drawings at the art show, and pictured on this page.

This spring, his drawing of a king eider was chosen as the first place winner in the 4th-6th grade category of the 2010 Illinois Junior Duck Stamp competition.

IOS is thrilled to start the Illinois Young Birders Club and proud of the accomplishments of young birders like Nandu Dubey.

Sheryl DeVore

MEADOWLARK

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 18, Number 4 - 2009

ISSN 1065-2043

Visit Our Website at: <http://www.illinoisbirds.org>

Articles

Sandhill Crane colt survival in northeastern Illinois 122

– Jeffrey Fox

Aggressive interaction between a Sora and Virginia Rail during spring migration 128

– John G. Palis

Departments

The 2009 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count 129

– Vernon M. Kleen

Field Notes: The 2009 spring migration 140

– Travis A. Mahan

Note: The Index to *Meadowlark* Volume 18 will be published online at www.illinoisbirds.org



*Eastern Meadowlark drawing
by Nandu Dubey.*

About Our Cover:

Peter Olson drew the cover featuring Sandhill Cranes and young to complement Jeffrey Fox's article on research he is doing on the species in Illinois. Olson is the assistant director of the Northern Illinois University Art Museum in DeKalb, and an accomplished artist with works featured at the prestigious Birds In Art exhibition held in Wisconsin.

Copyright© by the Illinois Ornithological Society. No part of this journal may be reproduced without the written permission of IOS and the chief editor, except brief passages of a paragraph or less in which attribution is made to the journal and author.