

Letter from the Editor

More than 20 years ago, a couple of birder friends of mine – Dave Johnson and Eric Walters – asked me if I'd be interested in editing a new state ornithological journal. It sounded intriguing and challenging, so I agreed. Over the years, it has indeed proven to be intriguing and challenging. This issue will be the 80th one I've edited, and you've all heard me say in these pages how grateful I am for the many volunteer photographers, artists, writers, ornithologists, web designers, newsletter designers, field note compilers, Christmas and spring bird count compilers, presidents, board members and our long-time printer. Please know that I appreciate all that each of you has done to help me get a 40-page journal out four times a year, without missing one in 20 years. Fingers crossed for the next 20 years. Thank you all!

One of my IOS colleagues asked me to write in this letter the tribulations and joys of editing a state journal. Ah, the trials—yes, getting volunteers who are incredibly busy at work and doing other volunteer work to meet deadlines; getting emails and phone calls from complainers about something incorrect in the journal or something they just don't like about IOS (thank goodness, we don't get too many of these-truly!); plus all the behind-the-scenes work of collecting photographs, converting to gray scale, making sure they are high resolution for printing; asking people to do something for nothing, except maybe the joy of seeing their name or photo in print; proofing copy over and over and then still finding an error in the final product; reading about great birds I could go out and see, but instead being tied to the computer trying to finish *Meadowlark*.

Now on to the joys. What I have gained from editing *Meadowlark* all these years is a sense of continuity and longevity, something not as honorable in the 21st century as it's been in the past, but nonetheless very rewarding to someone who was raised by a father and mother who experienced the tail end of the Depression (not this one, the one in 1929).

I've watched photography change drastically in a short two decades. We were getting color prints that we actually sent to the printer. Then we were scanning the photos into high-resolution digital renderings, which we sent to the printer. And now – with all the great photographers and equipment out there and digital cameras – quality photographs are gracing the pages of *Meadowlark* like never before. I do foresee a day when the full *Meadowlark* will be online with loads of color photos that people can see immediately and compare, perhaps, to what they have just seen in the field, or what's on their iphone.

As the editor, I've seen every rarity and first-state record – unfortunately not all in the field – but when putting together *Meadowlark*. Boreal Owl in

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About Our Cover:

Barbara Williams drew our 20th anniversary edition cover of a meadowlark. She is a member of the IOS board and serves as the membership secretary.

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