

## Letter from the Editor

### Leaving a legacy to the Illinois Young Birders

As I read the essay in this issue written by young birder Nick Minor, I thought of the legacy we at IOS are leaving to the next generation of birders and ornithologists. What began more than 20 years ago has grown into an organization that has published without fail four issues each year that young ornithologists can peruse when looking for patterns in bird populations and distributions. Those same ornithologists and birders will, we hope, help us get all that information up electronically for easy access. Remember, though, that the information would not be available had it not been for the countless IOS members and volunteers who have turned in reports, written stories and compiled seasonal reports now for 21 volumes. The bridge between the old and the new can be achieved with understanding and hard work from all ages.

These young birders and ornithologists will someday become the editors, compilers and Web masters of the future for IOS. Indeed, some of them are already contributing now. See Nandu Dubey's drawing on the front cover.

I'm also a firm believer in our grant program, which helps young ornithologists gather data to help us better understand the avifauna population and distribution in Illinois, as well as offer ways to help the birds that need it the most.

There is gratitude in my heart for all those who have helped all those years, and hope in my heart for those who are to follow. I'm not ready to leave the fold now – I'm having too much fun and feel I can still make a valuable contribution to the organization. But I'm thrilled we have young and old members on the board, or should I say young minds and old experienced folks, working together to keep IOS going.

*Sheryl DeVore*

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### About Our Cover:

Nandu Dubey drew the cover illustration of an elaenia species. He is a member of the Illinois Young Birders Club and often contributes his artwork to the Illinois Ornithological Society.

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