

## Letter from the Editor

As our current president, Bob Fisher, prepares to step down (he's put in the maximum amount of time he can serve), I can say unequivocally that all presidents who have served IOS, including Bob, have added something positive to this membership and left an important legacy.

Since I started editing Meadowlark, presidents, board members and other volunteers, have introduced successful programs to IOS that should make you proud.

IOS members can be proud to have a well-funded, highly sought-after bird research grant program for students working toward college degrees for later careers in ornithology. We also have the most well-attended birding event in Illinois, The Gull Frolic, in northern Illinois in winter no less, and we have an ornithological research and data committee, an updated web site and the Illinois Young Birders group, along with an expansive online Lister's Corner.

And we have Meadowlark -- now with color covers and inside photo spreads! I'm proud to have worked with past presidents and board members to keep IOS thriving and Meadowlark coming to your mailboxes.

But we still need your help. Do you want to write a short bird-finding guide to one of your favorite places? Just email me and I'll help you get it done. We also have plenty of space online, too, to tell our members about important bird issues around the state. You can help by emailing us birding news to put online.

I welcome your stories, photos and suggestions for both the web site and the journal. Remember, though, an idea is only an idea until someone is willing to volunteer to help get it done.

My hat is off to every past president and board member who have given so much time to IOS. And I look forward to working with new officers and new board members to keep IOS growing and vibrant.

Email me at [sheryl.devore@comcast.net](mailto:sheryl.devore@comcast.net).

I truly would love to hear from you.

*Sheryl DeVore*

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### About Our Cover:

IOS Membership Secretary Barbara Williams created the cover drawing of Western Tanager. Barbara has been a devoted student of natural history for many years and has been a birder since she saw her first Scarlet Tanager at the age of 4. She ran the biology department at the Burpee Museum of Natural History for 13 years. She lives in Rockford with her husband, Daniel. Both are dedicated volunteers for IOS.

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