



Illinois Ornithological Society

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From the Editor

Having Fun

In the world of birding, there's the serious side and there's the fun side. You've been seeing a lot of the serious side in our recent issues, and you'll be seeing more as we prepare to bring you the updated and long-awaited Illinois Ornithological Records Committee report in the Fall issue.

As you have requested in past surveys, we are trying to maintain a balance in *Meadowlark*. With that in mind, this issue focuses, in part, on the fun side of birding.

The editorial staff has put together some stories about big-day birding including a behind-the-scenes look at how six of the state's best birders recorded 184 species of birds in a single day. It's also a venue for the listers out there. And it's a challenge for anyone who thinks they can break the record.

As the migration season closes and the breeding season enters, consider taking the time to stop and smell the roses - er - watch the birds for the pure enjoyment of it.

No listing. No note-taking. No field guides. No cameras. No scopes. No attempts to be the first to find that rare bird.

Just a pair of eyes and your tuned-in senses.

Stand in your backyard, close your eyes, and just enjoy the lilting song of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Is that White-throated Sparrow really saying, "Old Sam Peabody. Peabody?" Look at the glossy sheen of a Common Grackle. Enjoy the fragrance of a blooming wild lilac as an American Goldfinch descends on a branch.

While we are working to publish data for future researchers, an important goal of IOS, let's not forget that birding is just plain fun, and that enjoying the recreational aspects of birding is also a goal of this organization.

Indulge your senses and enjoy your hobby.

Sheryl De Vore