

## Letter from the Editor

### Documenting changes

In this issue, we bring you stories about the changing breeding avifauna in Illinois. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, with the main breeding range in Texas and Oklahoma, are now successfully raising young in southern Illinois (see Travis A. Mahan and Dan Kassebaum's article in this issue).

So what does this mean? Global warming, perhaps? Breeding Blue Grosbeaks and Summer Tanagers seem to be pushing northward in Illinois. But then Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seem to be pushing southward as breeders in Illinois. In the northeastern part of Illinois, Clay-colored Sparrows, which mostly breed farther north and west, successfully raised young in several locations last year (see Joe Suchecki's article in this issue). Formerly, this species was known to breed at only one site in Illinois, a Christmas tree farm near Rockford. Joe reports the sparrows are back, four singing males, at Springbrook Prairie in DuPage County this breeding season.

And what's happening with the Monk Parakeet? This recently introduced species' population is expanding in Illinois, according to an article in this issue by Walter Marcisz.

These are conundrums that scientists are only beginning to explore. And they will, no doubt, be using the information contained in *Meadowlark* to determine population and distribution changes in breeding birds of Illinois, and compare those data with other factors such as climate and habitat.

What's so exciting to me is that, we, the birders of Illinois, are documenting these changes. And the articles you read here, plus the Field Notes, can be readily found by those studying these changes. Every issue of *Meadowlark* can be found at the Field Museum in Chicago as well as at various libraries and institutions. The Field Museum of Natural History in New York also houses *Meadowlark* in an exchange program with IOS.

When you write articles, take photos and send in Field Notes for *Meadowlark*, you become part of the future of birds and science. You become part of a bigger picture.

We now have thirteen full years of data in *Meadowlark* and another seven years of data before that published in the former *Illinois Birds & Birding*. We have 20 years of data that Illinois birders have provided and many more details in the articles that volunteer authors and citizen scientists take the time to write. You should be proud of yourselves. And those of you who are sitting on the sidelines with stories, data and ideas, what are you waiting for? Email me at sheryl.devore@comcast.net with your ideas and become part of a bigger universe in which you can play a role in science, conservation and ornithology.

*Sheryl DeVore*

Volume 14, Number 1

# MEADOWLARK

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 14, Number 1 - 2005

ISSN 1065-2043

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

## Articles

- The expanding Monk Parakeet:** 2  
**An update on the Chicagoland Monk Parakeet expansion, with notes on cell tower nests**

– Walter Marcisz

- An assessment of avian richness and relative abundance at Green Wing Environmental Laboratory, Lee County, Illinois** 8

– Kelly J. McKay and Stephen B. Hager

- The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Illinois with accounts of nesting attempts in 2003 and 2004** 15

– Travis A. Mahan and Dan M. Kassebaum

- Clay-colored Sparrows successfully nest in DuPage County with comments on possible expansion as a breeding species** 21

– Joe Suchecki and Sheryl De Vore

- Ospreys successfully nest at Carlyle Lake** 23

– Travis A. Mahan

## Departments

- Field Notes: 2004 Breeding Season** 24

– Vernon M. Kleen

### About Our Cover:

Eric Secker drew the cover Monk Parakeet for this issue. He is a regular contributor to *Meadowlark*.

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.