

Letter from the Editor

Jenny Vogt's president's message about the employment of birds got me to thinking about employment vs. volunteerism. We work because we love it, or we need to make money to feed the family, we need health insurance, we need something to do, and so many other reasons.

But why do we volunteer?

As I writer, I interview volunteers who served in various capacities, and always ask to name their main reason for volunteering. The answer surprised me. Of course, they want to help others. But an equally important reason is to experience camaraderie. I heard it over and over again. And I think the reason I continue to edit *Meadowlark* and come to the board meetings, and come to our spring weekends, is yes, because I love and want to help birds, but also because of the camaraderie.

IOS volunteers have a special spirit, a special desire to help birds, help people learn to bird – and even more importantly, help buoy one another up to be the best we can be, to support one another in times of trouble and pain and to congratulate one another in times of joy and excitement.

There have been so many times in these past 19 years that I've been involved with IOS that something tragic has happened to me or some other volunteer – divorce, death in a family, illness in a family, lost jobs, you name it. And it always seems that the volunteers are there to hold your hand, offer you a word of compassion, do one little thing that really makes a difference.

If you are missing that in your life and you love birds, consider volunteering for IOS. Get to know the fine board members, photographers, writers, membership chairs, envelope stuffers, artists, newsletter writer and designers, spring weekend greeters, field trip leaders, web designers, web masters, all the folks who help make IOS what it is.

Because, it's true what you've heard: When you volunteer, you get back so much more than you give.

Thank you, wonderful volunteers, for not only doing so much for IOS, but also for helping me be a better person just for knowing and working with you.

Sheryl DeVore

MEADOWLARK

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 18, Number 1 - 2009

ISSN 1065-2043

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

Articles

Birdnotes from a bygone era 2

— Steven D. Bailey

Mississippi Kites nest in Rockford: 8

Illinois' most northerly breeding record

— Dan Williams

Departments

Field Notes: The 2008 breeding season 12

— Steven D. Bailey



About Our Cover:

IOS Board Member Barbara Williams created this issue's cover of Mississippi Kites. She's 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.

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.