

Letter from the Editor

Let's hear it for the avian photographers ...

As the cost of color print goes down, we at IOS, get to do something really fun—publish photos in color from time to time. You'll notice in this issue a two-page spread featuring gorgeous photos taken by many talented “birdographers” in the state.

Since we are a non-profit organization just about making ends meet, we cannot pay all our wonderful photographers or writers, editors and illustrators for that matter. But we can find ways to highlight their great work. One way is through the use of color.

Choosing the right photos for that spread was difficult indeed. Illinois is blessed with many fine photographers—we had to consider color saturation, pose, high resolution and other issues. We hope you'll enjoy what we've chosen.

In the future, if you'd like your photos to be considered to be published in black-and-white or color in the pages of *Meadowlark*, please send high resolution photos directly to me at sheryl.devore@comcast.net AND sheryl_1956@yahoo.com, with the exact date and location, including county, in which you snapped the shot. If the bird is rare, a lower resolution and not-too-clear picture can be used for documentation purposes.

We spend a lot of time looking for photos, gleaning through list serves, personal photo pages and other on line avenues to secure works to be published in *Meadowlark*. It takes a lot of time and thought, and paying attention to exact detail and getting the photographers' names correct requires hours of patience. Over the years, we have made some mistakes, but I'd like to think they are far and few between, and that the photographers appreciate how hard we work to make them shine.

Truly, no other state has a finer cadre of bird photographers who so graciously share their work with *Meadowlark* readers. We applaud them and thank them.

Tell me what you're doing for the birds and I'll print your replies in a future issue of *Meadowlark*.

Email me at sheryl.devore@comcast.net.

Sheryl DeVore

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About Our Cover:

Peter Olson created the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck drawing on our cover. Peter is the assistant director of the Art Museum at Northern Illinois University. He has had several solo exhibitions in Illinois and has also exhibited for three consecutive years at the prestigious international Birds in Art in Wisconsin.

Peter's illustrations have been used in several ornithological journals and for two books by Stephen Asma. He also recently collaborated with Illinois author and storyteller Brian “Fox” Ellis on the book “Charles Darwin and His R-EVOLUTION-ary Idea.” Read more at www.peterolsonbirds.com.

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