

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the premiere issue of *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*. This quarterly journal is published for you - whether you're an ornithologist, student, beginning birder, advanced birder, feeder watcher, or bird lover of any type.

We will feature a wide variety of articles about the birds of our prairie state as well as provide permanent Illinois ornithological records so valuable in research.

In this summer issue, we focus on breeding birds. At least 176 species of birds breed in Illinois, as evidenced by the six-year long breeding bird atlas. Our lead article written by associate editor Peter Friederici tells you about the rewards of being involved in such an atlas.

Ornithologist and college professor, Dr. Scott Hickman, shows in his article about the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project how creating suitable habitat for breeding birds can make a difference in Illinois bird life. Plan a trip to the wetlands project this summer. It's a fascinating place for study and recreation.

Also, Sue Friscia observes the antics of fledgling birds getting their first lessons in feeding from their parents at her 10 backyard feeder stations. David B. Johnson gives you lessons in identifying juvenile and definitive basic Chipping Sparrows in Field I.D.

Todd Fink and Judy De Neal provide tips on shorebirding Rend Lake in southern Illinois. In fact, IOS has scheduled a field trip to Rend Lake on Sunday August 23. Judy and Todd will guide you, hopefully, to Buff-breasted Sandpipers and other shorebirds starting at 8 a.m. See details following their article.

We hope you enjoy our premiere issue and that you'll support this fledgling journal as we grow and learn. We welcome your suggestions and comments and appreciate your patience as we work to make each forthcoming issue better. We also welcome writers, illustrators, and photographers to submit materials. See the back of the journal for details.

A special word of thanks goes to all our contributors. The associate and technical editors, illustrators, photographers, writers, and advisors are hard-working volunteers with professional experience in editing, writing, photography, drawing, graphics, bird identification, and ornithological research.

They deserve your support.

Let us hear from you. Good birding.

