

Letter from the editor

Bird behavior, people behavior

Identifying birds is not enough for me. Whenever I'm out in the field, questions arise. Why is the pair of Sandhill Cranes with their nearly grown young acting as if they are feeding in the wetlands, when they're not eating anything? And why do some birds such as Song Sparrows and Redwinged Blackbirds start singing for a short time in fall?

For many of us, part of the joy of birding besides identification and listing, is observing behavior. To satisfy that craving, we've started a new column in *Meadowlark* called: Ask The Ornithologist, which you'll find on page 59. If you have a burning question about birds in Illinois, Email me at sdevore@voyager.net or send me a note at 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060, or send your question directly to Steve Bailey at Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 E. Peabody, Champaign, IL 61820 or Email him at: sdbailey@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu

Also new in this issue is a column about one of the many birding organizations in the state. We'd like to feature groups statewide. One thing birding does for me, although I do like to be alone in the field sometimes, is having a sense that I'm part of a large family. That part of our avocation especially struck me when so many of us were out searching for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Illinois Beach State Park this August and September. When birders help each other locate the species or offer a look through their scope, then birders become people, too, and very nice people at that.


Sheryl De Vore

Please make a note of this correction: In *Meadowlark* Vol 8 No. 2 (page 44), the correct spelling of the name of the couple who had the Allen's Hummingbird in Niantic, Illinois is as follows: Mary and Chad Stamm. Also the date under the photo on page 44 should read: 17 November 1997.

The Meadowlark staff regrets the error and thanks the Stamms for reporting their wonderful find. Mary Stamm recently sent us an Email saying, "This was such a wonderful experience for us, and a great story to pass on to our grandchildren."

MEADOWLARK

A Journal of Illinois Birds

Volume 9, Number 2 – 2000

ISSN 1065-2043

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

Articles

- Birding Illinois 100 Years Ago: Part II –
Of Waterfowl and Whooping Cranes** 42
– Sheryl DeVore
- Struggling in the Wind:
Getting Started in Hawkwatching** 44
– Vic Berardi
- The Sixth Report of the Illinois Ornithological
Records Committee** 50
– Douglas F. Stotz and David B. Johnson
- A Pacific Loon Visits Vulcan Lake
in McHenry County** 56
– Victoria M. Buchwald
- Little Gull Summers in Lake County** 57
– Eric Walters

Departments

- Ask The Ornithologist**
Birds of the Corn and Soybean Desert 59
– Steven D. Bailey
- Bird Finding Guide** 62
Chicago Urban Birding:
A Site Guide for A Dynamite Downtown Hot Spot
– Christine Williamson
- Illinois Bird Clubs: Birds of a Feather** 65
Chicago Ornithological Society
– Jenny Vogt
- The 1999 Fall Migration** 67
– Robert Chapel

About Our Cover:

Michael Retter drew the cover art of a male Barrow's Goldeneye, one of the species discussed in the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee report in this issue. See page 52.

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.