

# Illinois Ornithological Society



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Illinois Ornithological Society

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## Letter from the editor

Early May 1991. Dawn. Montrose Harbor, Chicago. Two fishermen dangle lines off a pier next to Lake Michigan. Much of the city still sleeps.

Suddenly a Peregrine Falcon swoops at dizzying speed like a storm interrupting the calm to grab an unsuspecting shorebird dallying along the shore.

That was the only Peregrine Falcon I had ever seen in Illinois. The same year, my father saw a peregrine snatch a Rock Dove from its perch on a tall building right in the heart of downtown Chicago.

Those rare experiences might not have been possible were it not for the combined efforts of organizations such as the Chicago Academy of Sciences to bring this endangered raptor back from the brink of extinction in Illinois. That is why it is so important for birders to expand their focus of finding

the rare one to finding ways to protect such species — whether it be through donations, volunteer research, joining one of the many fine conservation organizations in Illinois, or disseminating information to others.

With those thoughts in mind, the Meadowlark staff devotes this and the following two issues to endangered avian species. Articles will emphasize the work various groups are doing to provide and protect habitat necessary for these species' survival.

In this issue, we feature an article by Mary Hennen regarding the status of the Peregrine Falcon release project at the Academy of Sciences where she works. Scientists like Mary who monitor the bird's progress will hopefully ensure that the Peregrine Falcon I saw two years ago in Illinois will not be the last.

*Sheryl DeVore*

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## About Our Cover Illustrator

**Leslie A. DeCoursey** drew the Western Grebe, which was seen in fall in northeastern Illinois, a rare occurrence. DeCoursey began her professional art career as Staff Artist at Brookfield Zoo in 1980. Her works hang in private and corporate collections in seven states. DeCoursey, who also works with the Chicagoland Bird Observatory, accepts commissions at 708-387-9265.

Meadowlark