



# Illinois Ornithological Society

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## **Letter from the editor**

*We need your breeding bird survey reports!*

Sometime in August or September, I begin my yearly ritual of writing a breeding bird survey report. I've been doing these surveys as a consultant for about five years for the Lake County Forest Preserve District. And while it's a tedious task, I feel a sense of accomplishment that I am recording data that could be useful to not only the forest preserve district, but also future ornithologists.

I know that many of you out there are doing the same.

For instance, our photographer Joe Milosevich has told me about surveys he did last year in the Joliet area. And our associate editor David B. Johnson has done some breeding bird survey work for the Wetlands Research Institute in Lake County. He found breeding Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos!

Why am I mentioning all this? Because these reports, while kept in files with the organization or company that scheduled the study, should also be published in *Meadowlark*.

We need to document in written format the breeding successes of birds in Illinois as a framework for future research and a link to past research. If you've already done all the transect work and report-writing for breeding birds in an area in Illinois, then you have a framework in which to write an article for *Meadowlark*. Perhaps all we need to do is make some minor changes before publishing your report.

Think of someone doing research ten years from now on the area you surveyed. What a benefit it would be if they could read your report in *Meadowlark* for comparison purposes. One thing I'd like to do is examine the breeding bird survey reports from the Lake County Forest Preserve District files for the past ten years. I did that when I surveyed Ryerson Woods two years ago and found that Veeries were considered common breeders there ten years ago. But I only found three breeding pairs in the entire preserve the year I did the survey. This is significant information.

I started the ball rolling by publishing that Ryerson report in Vol. 5 No. 2. Now is your chance to add to the breeding bird data you've been carefully collecting in your neck of the woods.

The readers surveys you returned indicated you want more information about birds in Illinois. Here's your chance to provide that information. Share your reports with us - and with the future scientists who will find them more easily in *Meadowlark* through our annual Index, than by wading through reams of files at various organizations and corporations statewide.

If you want help getting started, please contact me at (847) 566-4846; 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060, or E-mail me at: sdevore@ais.net.

*Sheryl DeVore*