

## Letter from the Editor

### *Of IORC reports and volunteers*

Over the years, IOS has had many loyal authors and editors who continue to work on the many reports you see in *Meadowlark*: From the seasonal reports, to the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee report to the Spring Bird Count and Christmas Bird Count.

One of the most loyal has been Doug Stotz, a conservation biologist at The Field Museum. He's been bringing readers both the fall field notes and IORC reports for many years. Though Doug promises to stay involved with IOS, he's stepping down from that post and handing over the job of IORC recording secretary to Paul Sweet. We're grateful to Doug for his many years of service, and also grateful to Paul, who will take on this new role as well as continue compiling the Christmas Bird Count, which you'll see in the next issue.

Our interim field notes compiler for fall needs no introduction – he's Dave Johnson and we're lucky he's stepped in to help. He's also working on two great articles for the next issue as well.

The same dedicated volunteers step in again and again to keep IOS and the Meadowlark going. It's heartwarming, but also worrisome. We need more volunteers – not just the same people all the time. So I'm asking if you have it in your heart, as an IOS member, to write a short field guide to your favorite place to bird and email it to me so we can bring that back into the journal. It's a feature I know many of you would like to see again, so why not contribute to the cause?

For an example, you can see the last issue's one page feature on the Jane Addams trail. Could some of you do the same thing? Of course you can, and I'll help. Just call me at 847-566-4846 or email me at [sheryl.devore@comcast.net](mailto:sheryl.devore@comcast.net).

I'm waiting to hear from you – and in the meantime, I'm enjoying editing Doug's last IORC report, particularly the Mountain Bluebird entry. Did you get to see one of those birds that graced our state last fall? I hiked through the dunes and across a cold creek at Illinois Beach State Park to get my first for the state – reading about it brings back great memories.

Have a safe and happy holiday season – may your gifts be birds in the sky.

*Sheryl DeVore*

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## About Our Cover:

Matt McKim-Louder created the front and back cover spread depicting four rare birds that visited Illinois last fall. See if you can identify all four of the species. An experienced birder and scientist, Matt is pursuing his doctorate at the University of Illinois. Matt is studying Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism of Prothonotary Warbler in southern Illinois.

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