

Letter from the Editor

You may have noticed the gorgeous color drawing on the cover of this issue, as well as the equally stunning color photograph on the back cover. Though it's not economically feasible to print the entire issue in color, we decided we can occasionally use color to showcase our talented artists and photographers and give you something a little prettier to admire while reading *Meadowlark*.

This is an experiment, one we hope you'll support. In a future issue, we might highlight color photos on a two-page spread when it seems warranted. If someone takes a stunning photo of a Varied Thrush, for example, wouldn't it be great to see the bird in full, living color? The cost of color in magazines has decreased, so we're taking advantage of that, at least for the time being.

Our artist, Jenny Vogt, has graciously offered to sell, for a limited time only, prints of the Green Violetear and donate some of the profits to IOS. Please see the information below in "About Our Cover" for information on ordering prints. The deadline is Feb. 19, the date of the Annual Gull Frolic. We hope to see you there at this wonderful day of learning, camaraderie, birding and great food.

As well as having volunteers who can create art and take photographs, IOS also has talented cooks, who provide gull stew and other fabulous meals at the frolic. We also have got talented volunteer writers, editors, advisers, Web masters and more.

Birders are truly multi-talented – especially those who belong to IOS! We hope you enjoy Jenny Vogt's and Brian Tang's talents in this issue.

We promise to be judicious in our choices of using color, and welcome your input and thoughts on this new venture.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and don't forget that IOS memberships make great gifts.

Sheryl DeVore

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About Our Cover:

Our cover art is Jenny Vogt's interpretation of the state's first Green Violetear that visited a St. Clair County feeder in August 2009.

Limited edition prints are available for a short time for \$38, plus \$10, packaging and postage. To receive the special price, order by Feb. 19, 2011, the date of the Gull Frolic. Visit www.illinoisbirds.org. Click on the picture of the hummingbird art. This will take you to a secure check out where you can purchase your own signed and numbered archive-quality, limited edition print. Your purchase supports IOS.

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