

Illinois Ornithological Society



Publisher

Illinois Ornithological Society

President

Eric Walters

Vice-President

David B. Johnson

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

Michael Hogg

Chief Editor

Sheryl De Vore

Board of Directors

Dr. Laurence C. Binford

Robert T. Chapel

Judy K. DeNeal

Todd Fink

Ronald E. Goetz

David B. Johnson

W. Douglas Robinson

Eric Walters

Dr. David Willard

Associate Editors

Judy K. DeNeal

Chuck Hutchcraft

David B. Johnson

Art Editor

Denis Kania

Staff Illustrators

David Athans

Leslie A. DeCoursey

Graphics/Layout

Francia Lindon

Photographer

Joe B. Milosevich

Printing

Ed Barresi

Reprox

4667 McRee

St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Membership Secretary

Barbara J. Walters

Letter from the editor

This winter will mark the fourth annual trek I have made with friends from Decatur to view wintering Bald Eagles in Illinois. Each time we see the spectacular white-headed bird of prey we realize that the Bald Eagle is more than just a symbol representing the United States.

The Bald Eagle is also a symbol of what can go wrong if we are not careful. It is a reminder that introducing man-made chemicals to our environment can have detrimental effects to many species including homo sapiens.

The Bald Eagle is also a symbol of what can go right; a reminder that we can work together to protect our endangered flora and fauna. Indeed, the Bald Eagle is making a comeback in Illinois and throughout the country.

The eagle is also a symbol of the intrinsic beauty of birds. The wonder of watching a creature lifting and lowering its wings to pull itself through the air is never more fully experienced than when observing an eagle take flight on a snowy, winter day.

This issue, the second devoted to Illinois' endangered species, focuses on the Bald Eagle. You will find articles about the status of the Bald Eagle in winter, where to best find eagles in winter, and how to separate the various plumage stages once you locate the birds.

Whatever you feel when you observe an eagle in flight, may you also experience the burning need to protect Illinois' endangered species.

Sheryl De Vore

Editorial Advisory Board

Dr. Laurence C. Binford,

Dr. Dale Birkenholz,

H. David Bohlen,

Kenneth J. Brock,

Victoria J. Byre,

Robert T. Chapel,

Todd Fink,

Ronald E. Goetz,

Dr. Scott Hickman,

L. Barrie Hunt,

Vernon M. Kleen,

Dr. Scott K. Robinson,

W. Douglas Robinson,

Robert Szafoni,

Dr. David Willard

About Our Cover Illustrator

David Athans drew the Curve-billed Thrasher, a western bird that was seen in southern Illinois the winter of 1992/93 marking a first state record. Athans, a member of the Chicago Ornithological Society, has exhibited his drawings at the Midwest Birding Symposium and also sells his works through Wild Birds Unlimited. He accepts commissioned work and can be contacted at 708-388-0285.