

## Letter from the Editor

### *Southern Illinois in April – it's where to be!*

Those IOS members living in southern Illinois might say ho hum, but folks living farther north, listen to this: Singing Worm-eating Warblers along the roads winding through Trail of Tears State Forest. Lots of them, and close-up views if you wait patiently. Kentucky Warblers giving their chirpy chirpy calls from within the woods. And the mellifluous ta-weet-a-weet-a-weet-co of the Hooded Warbler.

Pileated Woodpeckers calling from the bottomland swamps – flashing their large black and white wings as they fly from one pecking hole to the next. Could that have been an Ivory-billed?

Prothonotary Warblers singing everywhere in the bottomlands – flashes of gold darting in and among the greenery.

Red-shouldered Hawks giving their klee-yurs overhead – a scan of the binoculars and it's in your field of view.

It's time to celebrate southern Illinois and springtime birding in our great state, folks. And the best way to do that, is to get yourself to the IOS Annual Meeting, held jointly with the Southernmost Annual Birding Blitz and Southernmost Illinois Birding Festival. How can you resist? So many great birds, and birders to lead you directly to your coveted species.

And the landscape is alive with spring wildflowers such as trillium, as well as blooming shrubs including the flowering dogwood and redbud.

When I was first introduced to southern Illinois and birding, I was amazed and enthralled. It felt as if I were in another state, Louisiana perhaps. Every time I go there to bird, I get that same feeling. I hope to see you all in southern Illinois the last weekend in April to celebrate spring and IOS's 16th anniversary of its founding.

*Sheryl DeVore*

# MEADOWLARK

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### About Our Cover:

Cover gouache painting of Barnacle Goose and hybrid in flock of Richardson's Cackling Geese, like the one to the right, was created by Michael L. P. Retter. Michael leads tours in Mexico, Ecuador, and the U.S. for Tropical Birding and Birding America.



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