

## Letter from the Editor

IOS is changing and I'm happy to go along for the ride. As editor and publications committee chair, I'm excited about the improved Website – with our webmaster Greg Neise making it more user-friendly and interactive. Plus, we're moving Wings Over The Prairie online so you can get news, updates quickly and easily with the click of a finger.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to Marj Lundy, who edited and designed Wings Over The Prairie for the past several years – Marj will help us get what used to be in the newsletter online. Plus we'll have more features such as blogs on your favorite subject, birds. And we'll try to get online all those great Important Birders You Should Know pieces Marj has compiled over the years.

There are other digital ventures in the works, such as getting past *Meadowlark* stories on line, and a much more complete Table of Contents. Stay tuned for that.

All of this, along with continuing to publish *Meadowlark*, provide you with great field trips and secure grants, takes work and time. We certainly hope you'll join us in any way you can as we enter the digital world with even more fervor.

Please contact us with thoughts, ideas and your willingness to bring some of these ideas to fruition. We have a great team of volunteers who are creating new ways to bring you news from IOS, but we need more involvement from our other members.

Everyone is so busy – I know – but surely there's something you can do that will help us further our mission to disseminate the news of birds and birding in Illinois as well as promote education and scientific research.

To me, it's exciting to think about all the stories and data and great photographs we've provided over 22 years of *Meadowlark*, and now to think they could also be preserved on line as we move forward, that's very exciting indeed.

Finally, I'd like to offer an apology for the *Meadowlarks* being behind our typical schedule. Steve Bailey, my right hand man, and I are working really hard to get these issues out – but remember that volunteers have lots of other things to do besides prepare items for *Meadowlark*, and sometimes it's difficult for them to meet deadlines. Family situations also get in the way – we will try our best to get back on schedule. Thanks for your support and encouragement.

*Sheryl DeVore*

# MEADOWLARK

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 22, Number 3 – 2013

ISSN 1065-2043

Visit Our Website at: <http://www.illinoisbirds.org>

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## About Our Cover:

Frank Bennett created the Mountain Bluebird cover drawing. He resides in southernmost Illinois where he enjoys watching hummingbirds, gardening and painting.

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