

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Marjorie Rines

One of our staff members recently attended a conference on local birding publications, sponsored by the American Birding Association, and was gratified to find that *Bird Observer* is looked to by other regional birding publications as a standard of excellence. Even more gratifying is the loyalty and enthusiasm displayed by our readers. The magazine's reputation gives all of us at *Bird Observer* a tremendous sense of pride, particularly considering that we are one of the few such journals that receive no subsidy from a local Audubon chapter or ornithological society. While there are many jobs at *Bird Observer* that contribute to the publication, it is the Editor in Chief who creates this excellence.

I would therefore like to take this chance to honor our retiring editor, Martha Steele. Martha took over five years ago and, despite a full-time job, devoted an enormous amount of personal time to the publication (to the detriment of her time out birding). Martha was not just a dedicated and talented editor, but a leader who inspired our best work. She created an editorial team that brings in expertise from many areas, and led the organization with patience, humor, and skill. Thank you, Martha, for your hard work, for your dedication, and for making *Bird Observer* a magazine of which we can all be proud.

Thus, starting with the first issue of our quarter-century year, you will see a new name as Editor in Chief on our masthead. Matt Pelikan has worked for two years as Subscription Manager at *Bird Observer*, and has wide interests and experience as a birder, writer, and editor. *Bird Observer's* staff and board are pleased that Matt has agreed to accept this difficult and time-consuming job.

Marjorie Rines is the president of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., the nonprofit corporation that publishes *Bird Observer*.

Roger Tory Peterson Memorial Lecture

"Nature" by Dr. Edward O. Wilson

Sunday, April 13, 1997, 4:00 P.M.

Science Center, Lecture Hall B, Harvard University

Oxford Street, Cambridge

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