

Letter from the President

The staff of *Bird Observer* is proud to publish and produce the Journal entirely by a volunteer staff, and there are many people who contribute to its success. It is the Editor in Chief, however, who is finally responsible for pulling together all the pieces that create the Journal. For three years, Matt Pelikan has held this position, carrying on the tradition of excellence set by his predecessors. In 1998 Matt was appointed editor of the American Birding Association's newsletter, *Winging It*, and after nearly two years of editing both journals, Matt has decided to retire as editor of *Bird Observer*. Matt will continue to be involved in *Bird Observer*, but in a reduced role.

I would like to thank Matt for his outstanding contributions to *Bird Observer*. He has been an exemplary editor, an outstanding wordsmith, and a good friend. The journal has greatly benefited from his tenure.

Beginning with the first issue of the year 2000, we are pleased to welcome Brooke Stevens in the new role of Managing Editor. Brooke brings a new vitality and a wealth of ideas to the journal, and we are all very excited about this new beginning.

You will notice another change, beginning with this issue. We have adopted a new design to the Journal to give it a more modern, readable look. We thank designer Andrea Golden of Arlington for her contribution in creating this new look.

Marjorie W. Rines
President, Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts

