

## Comments from the Editor

*The Auk* is now back on schedule. This accomplishment is largely attributable to my predecessor, Gary Schnell, who made a Herculean effort to catch up and pass the journal to me in good shape. I applaud Gary for his accomplishment and thank him for his effort, which has provided a smooth transition of editorial responsibilities.

I also would like to highlight a few changes that I am initiating. **Structural and Processing Changes:** The inside front cover shows that I have established an editorial board and lists these individuals who have graciously agreed to assist in publication of *The Auk*. The members of the board reflect the broad range of topics covered by this journal and thereby provide a means of choosing appropriate referees and carefully evaluating manuscripts. In addition, an editorial board will help increase speed of processing, while maintaining the high standards of reviewing and editing that have long been associated with this journal. Our goal is to reduce the time from initial submission of a manuscript until notification of its fate to an average of two months, and to get manuscripts into print within 10 months, on average, of initial submission. We expect to achieve these goals by the October 1996 issue. **Color Frontispiece:** I would like to begin publishing a color frontispiece with the lead article of each issue at no charge to authors. All authors are welcome to

submit illustrations to compete for this privilege. Selection will be based on quality of both the article and its accompanying artwork. **Conceptual Approach:** I am encouraging authors to take a broader conceptual approach to their submissions. Specifically, I encourage authors to evaluate their data from a perspective that puts the paper in the context of current theory without regard to taxa. Birds will remain the subject and focus of all papers, but I hope that papers in *The Auk* will highlight general conceptual and theoretical advances whenever possible and include comparisons with other taxa. **Conservation Implications:** Anthropogenic changes in our environment make it increasingly imperative to transfer sound scientific information to resource managers. Thus, authors are welcome to conclude their papers with a short section that addresses the conservation implications of their work. **Commentaries:** I am interested in maintaining a vigorous "Commentary" section. Commentaries provide a means of rapidly disseminating information and providing new or alternative points-of-view on various topics of general interest to readers of *The Auk*. From time to time, I will invite Commentaries on specific issues, but I encourage unsolicited contributions as well. I look forward to my new duties as Editor, and I hope that my excitement for birds and science is amplified through the pages of *The Auk*.