

# Note from the Editor

F. Arthur McMorris

This issue of *Cassinia* represents a changing of the guard as I assume the post of Editor from Colin Campbell. Colin jumped in heroically and put the last issue together upon the sudden death of our previous editor, Sandra Sherman. In following Colin and Sandy I am acutely aware that I have a very high standard to maintain. Looking back at the list of previous editors of *Cassinia* over its hundred-plus years of publication, one sees the names of many icons of the ornithological community and of our club's history: Witmer Stone, Spencer Trotter, Fletcher Street, Ernest Choate and Edward Fingerhood, to name just a few. To follow in their path is indeed humbling.

Volume 70 of *Cassinia*, like all those in the past, reflects the hard work and ornithological expertise of many people. Steve Kerr continues as Photo Editor and Clay Sutton as Assistant Editor, as they both have done since the publication of the 1996-1997 issue; and Bert Filemyr continues as Layout and Production Editor, the role he assumed with the last issue. For the fourth issue in a row, Adrian Binns has graced our cover and pages with his stunning bird drawings. Colin Campbell has been indispensable in easing the editorial transition. To all of these I express my deep thanks. And finally, profuse thanks are due to all the authors and photographers who have contributed their articles, notes and photographs. Without them there would be no *Cassinia*.

The articles in this issue represent many different aspects of ornithology. We have two articles on the avifauna of Delaware: a report by Richard Bell of 20 years of November observations and a report by Colin Campbell of Delaware big days in each month of one year. We have reports on the Uncommon and the Common: Jane Henderson has contributed a species account of the "Uncommon Snipe" and Jeff Holt has given us a historical record of discovery, showing how the common can be overlooked and neglected. Jeff has also contributed an account of the interplay of three giants of early American ornithology, John James Audubon, Alexander Wilson and George Ord, as well as notes on five "mystery birds" depicted by Audubon. Frank Windfelder shows us that good birding can be had without any travel at all, and Brad Whitman has favored us with his personal reflections on the poetry of bird names. Additionally, Jane Henderson has written a remembrance of Charlie Wonderly, and a number of contributors have documented unusual bird sightings with their photographs and notes.

To all who have contributed to this issue I offer my deep thanks; and to you, our readers, I wish *bon appetit!*