

Anniversaries . . .

"We welcome you as a new subscriber to BIRD OBSERVER." The letter from David Lange, Subscription Manager, arrived in mid August 1992 along with my first copy of the journal. A Manx Shearwater by Barry Van Dusen soared diagonally across the cover, primaries ticking the "R" at the top and breaking the rule below next to the artist's name. Martha Steele was editor. Familiar names were scattered across the masthead, staff who were doing then what they are doing now: Janet Heywood (mapmaker extraordinaire for Where to Go Birding), Ted Davis (cover editor), Jim Berry (Where to Go Birding), Bob Stymeist (Bird Sightings), Wayne Petersen (At a Glance). And Marj Rines, a protégé of board member Dick Forster, was in the wings as Associate Staff.

I became a subscriber as the journal was on the cusp of its twentieth anniversary. Now, a decade later, as we approach our thirtieth anniversary, I am struck by the continued support of our readers, some 800 strong! Paula Butler, *Bird Observer's* inaugural editor, wrote "In order for this publication to serve you and succeed, all clubs and individuals are asked to give support by reporting species, submitting articles, writing letters and questions to the editors, sharing bird interest stories, and giving criticism and suggestions for future expansion." *Bird Observer* owes its success as much to this ongoing mutuality as it does to the dedication of its staff.

As I look through the twenty crowded typewritten pages of the first issue, I read that Steve Grinley had Red Crossbills on his Brookline Bird Club trip in November (he's still leading BBC trips), that Wayne Petersen counted 50,000 scoters off Monomy (still his personal favorite place to bird), and that Bob Stymeist came up with four Winter Wrens in Middlesex Fells during the Christmas Bird Count (but no Carolina Wrens). There were over 1500 of Bob's all-time favorite bird tallied in Massachusetts on the 2002 CBC! A capsule account of *Bird Observer's* history can be found in Jim Berry's summary of bird records in New England, and Wayne adds another decade of "best birds" to the 1973-1992 list that appeared in the February 1993 issue, with an assist from the new bird records database created by Marj Rines.

This is my last issue as editor after three rewarding and challenging years working with some of the most passionate, talented, opinionated, and creative group of birders I have come across. Terry Leverich will be stepping up as editor and brings with him many fine new ideas for feature articles. We welcome Terry and we look forward to continuing our mission of enhancing your understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

Brooke Stevens



WILSON'S STORM-PETREL, WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.