

Note from the Editorial Desk:

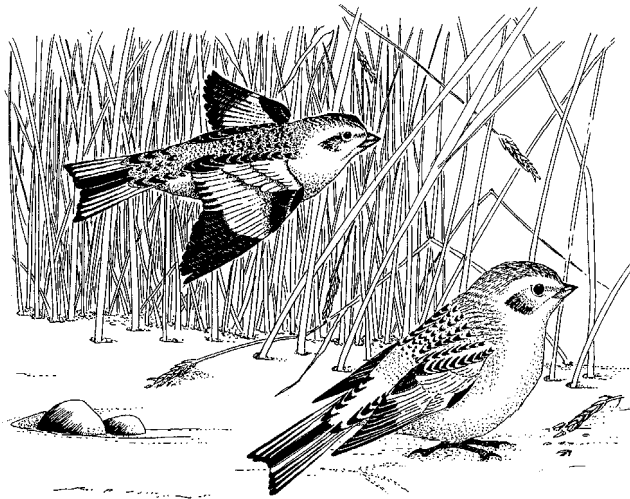
Greetings to all *Bird Observer* subscribers! This first issue of 2004 marks the beginning of a new involvement for me in the activities of this magazine, as I shift my focus from Subscription Manager to Managing Editor.

My introduction to *Bird Observer* came in the spring of 1986 when, as a lark (pun entirely intended), a friend and I enrolled in Miriam Dickey's "Introduction to Birding" class offered at Massachusetts Audubon's Drumlin Farm Sanctuary. She shared wisdom from her field experience of many years along with the strong suggestion that each of us become acquainted with *Bird Observer*. I did subscribe, enthusiastically participated in many of the workshops that were being offered at that time, and have since counted the connection as a major enhancer of my birding education.

The *Bird Observer* staff is comprised of a talented and most dedicated team of volunteers. In my new role I look forward to working with them to maintain the quality and variety that has marked the magazine for its first thirty-one years. I also hope to hear from you — be it brickbats or bouquets — along with your suggestions for topics you'd like to see us cover.

Many thanks for your continuing interest and support. 🐦

Carolyn Marsh



SNOW BUNTINGS BY GEORGE C. WEST