

Nominate a Colleague for an ISVMA Award

The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association is looking for outstanding veterinarians whose dedication to their field deserves special recognition. We're looking for individuals whose fervor to care for and attend to their patients' needs is rivaled only by his or her willingness to serve in organized veterinary medicine.

Let someone know you think they perform an outstanding service for the veterinary profession and honor their contributions in Illinois. The ISVMA Awards Committee is currently taking nominations through August 31, 2008 for the following honors:

The [Erwin Small First Decade Award](#) recognizes a graduate of a veterinary college who has been practicing veterinary medicine for less than ten years. Additionally, they must have supported the goals and mission of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association through leadership and/or participation in programs approved by the ISVMA.

The [Veterinary Service Award](#) is a meritorious award designed to honor those giving special attention to, or promotion of, the human-animal bond in Illinois as well as demonstrating outstanding work as an Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association member.

Don't wait for the deadline to nominate a deserving colleague. Download a nomination form by clicking on the linked award name (above). Winners will be notified in October 2008 and will be presented with their award at the ISVMA's Annual Convention in Lombard on November 7th, 2008.

Veterinarian Referral Resource - Complementary & Alternative Medicine

Do you have clients looking for a veterinary practitioner trained in chiropractic, acupuncture, herbology or other types of complementary and alternative medicine? ISVMA maintains a [list of member veterinarians](#) who have specialized training and /or certification in alternative and complementary medicine.

ISVMA members who wish to be added to this list should fill out an [information form](#) and return it to ISVMA. Your name and contact information will be added upon receipt and verification.

ISVMA Membership Renewal Update

ISVMA membership renewal packets will be mailed early next week. Your support of the veterinary profession through membership in ISVMA is greatly appreciated and, as noted in a letter from Dr. Ronald Gill, ISVMA President, your state association had a very successful year and continued to provide high quality services and programs to support the veterinary profession, individual practitioners, veterinary students, animals and the public.

Your continued support and participation is greatly appreciated. If it is easier for you, you can renew your membership online at http://isvmaimpak.networkats.com/members_online/members/newmember.asp. You can indicate on the web form whether your application is a renewal or new application. You may also make a voluntary contribution to VMPAC or the Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation (IVMF).

Please Support the ISVMA Building Reserve Fund

On March 3, 2008 the ISVMA moved into its new headquarters at 1121 Chatham Road in Springfield. The new building is in an optimal location to serve our membership. It is strategically located in the center of the state and very close to the Illinois State Capitol. The new building tripled the association's prior working space and provides adequate facilities for our staff and administrative functions. Most importantly, this needed facility solidifies the ISVMA foothold in the Capitol City and gives us a home to serve our members for decades.

The ISVMA is financially strong; but our budget is not designed to deal with unexpected and sudden demands for cash. Therefore, the Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation (IVMF) is seeking contributions from ISVMA supporters to build a reserve for the maintenance of the ISVMA headquarters. The purpose of the reserve will be to provide a source of funding to take care of irregular but expected maintenance issues such as replacement of a heating/cooling system, repaving the parking lot, installing a new roof, etc.

The IVMF supports the ISVMA and helps the ISVMA develop charitable programs related to the veterinary medical profession. All contributions to the IVMF are fully tax-deductible.

For more information on the IVMF and to make a contribution, please [visit the IVMF web page](#).

About the Photo

The [Skylark](#) (*Alauda arvensis*) is a small passerine bird species which breeds across most of Europe and Asia and in the mountains of north Africa. It is mainly resident in the west of its range, but eastern populations are more migratory, moving further south in winter. Even in the milder west of its range, many birds move to lowlands and the coast in winter. Asian birds appear as vagrants in Alaska; and the species has also been introduced in Hawaii and its North American range is limited to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

It is a bird of open farmland and heath. It has a remarkable courtship ritual for which it is known throughout its range. The song of the male is delivered in hovering flight from heights of 150 to 350 feet, when the singing bird may appear as just a dot in the sky from the ground. The song generally lasts 2 to 3 minutes, but it tends to last longer later in the season. The male has broader wings than the female. This adaptation for more efficient hovering flight may have evolved because of female Skylarks' preference for males that sing and hover for longer periods and so demonstrate that they are likely to have good overall fitness.

Like most other larks, the Skylark is a rather dull-looking species on the ground, being mainly brown above and paler below. It has a short blunt crest on the head, which can be raised and lowered. In flight it shows a short tail and short broad wings. The tail and the rear edge of the wings are edged with white, which are visible when the bird is flying away, but not if it is heading towards the observer. The Skylark has sturdy legs and spends much time on the ground foraging for seeds, supplemented with insects in the breeding season.

I photographed this Skylark on the Big Island of Hawaii during the summer of 2006.

Contact Us

Please feel free to forward this issue of the E-SOURCE to veterinarians that are not receiving ISVMA's electronic newsletter. Any ISVMA member may subscribe to the E-SOURCE for free:

If you wish to add your name to the recipient list, send an e-mail to info@isvma.org and ask to receive the E-SOURCE newsletter.

ISVMA values your membership and does not want to send you any unwanted email. If you would like to be removed from this member service, please email info@isvma.org.