



## ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### President's Message

Dear Members:

In this my first message in 2006, it seems appropriate to address the state of our Society.

We ended 2005 with money in the bank. Our revenues for the year exceeded expenditures with a surplus of \$2,738 on total revenues of \$22,329. Publishing costs represented 78% of our expenses, the Annual Meeting 16% and general expenses the remainder.

Our membership continues in the low 400s. We ended 2005 with 419 members compared to 408 for 2004 and 434 for 2003. As our Membership Chair, Dan Williams noted at our most recent board meeting, we are attracting new members at a good clip each year. We added 42 new members last year, but lost 31. If we are to grow we need to keep more of our existing members. We are still trying to figure out how to bring those whose memberships have lapsed back into the fold. The addition of a Paypal option on our Web site makes it as convenient as possible to renew your membership. It just takes the click of a mouse.

We are very fortunate to have a growing number of members who contribute more than the base level of Individual or Family Membership dues. Last year 83 of you generously contributed above the basic level, including a \$1,000 contribution by Ann Haverstock. Thank you so much, Ann. As a result we have been able to add \$1,500 to our reserves and have funds available for our scholarship program.

Field Trip Chair, Peter Weber has put together an excellent program again this year repeating our popular Smith's Longspur, Swainson's Hawk and Yellow Rail trips, and the sell-out annual Carlyle Lake Pelagic. He has also added a new trip continuing our focus on rare species, a search for the elusive Swainson's Warbler. Check out the schedule on our Web site at [www.illinoisbirds.org](http://www.illinoisbirds.org).

In addition, our "event" programs this year are off to a good start. The recent Gull Frolic under Board Member Denis Bohm's leadership was attended by nearly 160 hardy folks who were rewarded by a Long-tailed Duck right in the harbor in front of the Yacht Club and a good number of the target winter gulls. Our thanks also to Walter Marcisz for his presentation on winter ducks and to the "orange hat" experts who generously helped the rest of us find and identify those confusing winter gulls.

Our next event will be the Annual Meeting in Effingham over the weekend of March 31 through April 2. Participants can sign up for the blinds to watch the Prairie-chickens at close range dance on their leks. Then in late summer we have the Shorebird Spectacular planned for Lake Chautauqua over the weekend of August 26-27.

Hope to see you in Effingham.

*Good birding.*

Michael Hogg, President  
MHKiwi@aol.com

### Publisher

Illinois Ornithological Society

**Michael Hogg**, President

**Sheryl De Vore**, Chief Editor

**Peter Weber**, Vice-President

**Alex Meloy**, Treasurer

**Geoffrey Williamson**,  
Membership Secretary

### Board of Directors

Denis Bohm

Bob Fisher

Michael Hogg

Travis A. Mahan

Alex Meloy

Peter Olson

Jeffery Walk

Peter Weber

Dan Williams

### Associate Editors

Steven D. Bailey

Paul R. Clyne, David B. Johnson

Jeffery Walk

### Photo Editor

Travis A. Mahan

### Staff Photographers

Kanae Hirabayashi • Travis A. Mahan

Mary Kay Rubey • Eric Walters

### Staff Illustrators

David Athans • Denis Kania,

Peter Olson • Michael L. P. Retter

Eric Secker

### Pre-Press Production

Kathy Ade

TKAde@aol.com

### Printing

CityWide Printing

Des Plaines, Illinois

### Editorial Advisory Board

Steven D. Bailey • Dale Birkenholz

H. David Bohlen • Kenneth J. Brock

Caleb Gordon • Mary Hennen

L. Barrie Hunt • Vernon M. Kleen

Robert Montgomery

Scott K. Robinson • Robert Szafoni

Jeffery Walk • David Willard