



## ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### President's Message

#### Dear Members:

As I take on the challenging and exciting task of serving as President for the Illinois Ornithological Society, I find myself in good company. Many well-respected members of the birding community have held this position beginning with Eric Walters who turned the idea of IOS into a fledgling organization, and continuing with the presidential guidance of Bob Montgomery, Geoff Williamson, and Michael Hogg. Each of these IOS leaders has taken this organization one step further in its mission. Our immediate past president, Michael Hogg has been actively involved in IOS from the first day, providing professionalism and level-headed guidance.

With patience and careful nurturing, presidents, board members, and our many supporters have helped IOS grow and prosper. We now offer a field trip nearly every month of the year. The Carlyle pelagic field trip fills every year. The Shorebird Spectacular is an annual event, (if water levels hold.) The Gull Frolic has become the social event of the year, and helps raise funds for grant programs, initiated by IOS in 2004. You are now hearing about these projects in *Meadowlark*. For example, two issues ago we featured the important work on golden-plovers being done in Illinois, which IOS helped support through our grant program. This year, we have received ten grant applications, the largest number ever.

IOS also maintains the permanent state records of Illinois birds and bird life and the official checklist of Birds of Illinois. You will find the latest edition of the IOS field card included in this mailing. This revised list reflects changes in taxonomical order and occurrences in Illinois.

The future of our organization is children. To encourage young birders we are planning ways to connect them, engage them, get them out in the field, and cultivate their interest in birds. We have also begun planning and testing enhancements to the IOS website. This will include online resources that only IOS can provide as well as improved e-commerce, and a member's only section.

I'm happy to be working this year with a talented, energetic board: Steve Bailey, Joan Bruchman, Jeff Chapman, Scott Cohrs, Brian Herriott, Marj Lundy, Jeff Walk, and Barbara Williams. In addition we have many non-board members helping with important activities such as leading field trips, writing for the publications, contributing to grants, managing our finances, and coordinating IOS projects.

Please consider upgrading your membership to a sponsor or contributor level when you renew. I'd love to hear from you so we can put your great talents and skills to use.

Jenny Vogt,  
President

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