

# MEADOWLARK

*A Journal of Illinois Birds*

*Volume 4, Number 4 - 1995*

ISSN 1065-2043

## President's Message

Many active birders began pursuing their avian interests when they were young and introduced to the natural world by an older friend, family member, or teacher. They were often led in spring beyond the local neighborhood into an area teeming with migrating birds hooking them into a lifelong passion.

For the long-term viability of IOS, we need to encourage the younger generation to begin exploring the world of birds. Taking your child, a nephew, a niece, a neighbor's child out into your backyard and pointing out some common birds is one way to start. I'm planning an IOS field trip in spring geared to the youth. Those of you interested in leading similar field trips, let me know. Perhaps we can find more ways to get the younger set interested in the joys of birding.

*Eric Walters*

## About our cover:

Karen A. Becker drew the cover illustration of the Whimbrel, a rare Illinois migrant. Becker works in her Wheaton, IL and Baileys Harbor, WI homes doing botanical and ornithological artwork.

She accepts commissions and can be reached at: 1582 Burr Oak Court, Wheaton, IL 60187 or by calling 708.668.3838, x. 4531.

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