

MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

Even in early winter, with its snows and subfreezing temperatures, our local cardinals know spring is coming. They are already singing from the tops of trees.

Now would be a good time to clean up your birding gear, review those warbler songs, and get yourself tuned up for the spring migration - just like the cardinal "tunes up" and practices its best territorial songs.

Have you recruited a new birder to our hobby? Invite your neighbors to take a bird walk with you. Introduce birdwatching to the next generation by volunteering to help youth groups learn about birds. Maybe you can infect them with the birding bug.

For the past two years, your Board of Directors has been developing some long-range plans and interesting and important opportunities, including youth birding activities. Our ability to put these plans into action requires that we expand our membership base. Please ask your non-member birding friends to join IOS. We need your help.

Bob Montgomery

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— Compiled by Renee Baade

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About Our Cover:

Black-throated Gray Warbler illustration by Denis Kania. Birders documented the sixth state record of this bird in Cook County in May 1998. For details, see seasonal highlights.